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Sixty-Fifth National Report
Disabled American Veterans
1985

ORIGINAL

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA
July 21–25, 1985

COD

99th Congress, 1st Session - - - - - - - - - - - - House Document 99-123

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

64th NATIONAL CONVENTION

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

TRANSMITTING

THE REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS 64TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, INCLUDING A REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1984, PURSUANT TO TITLE 44, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1332, AND SECTION 3 OF PUBLIC LAW 88-504

NOVEMBER 7, 1985.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed, with illustrations

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
54-930 O WASHINGTON : 1986

Section 1332, Title 44, United States Code

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS; PROCEEDINGS PRINTED ANNUALLY FOR CONGRESS

The proceedings of the national encampments of the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of the World War I of the United States, Inc., the Disabled American Veterans, and the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II), respectively, shall be printed annually, with accompanying illustrations, as separate House documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted. (Public Law 96-260, October 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1270.)

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Disabled American Veterans,
Cincinnati, Ohio, *October 25, 1985.*

Hon. **Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.,**
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker: As business manager of the Disabled American Veterans, and as secretary of its National Convention, I hereby certify as to the authenticity of the reports and the proceedings of our National Convention, held in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985, and submit them to you through the office of this organization located in Washington, DC, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 186 of the 72d Congress, as amended, to be printed as a House document in accordance with the authorization of section 1332 of title 44, United States Code.

The enclosed National Convention proceedings include an independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 1984, as required by the provisions of section 3 of Public Law 88-504, approved August 30, 1964.

Respectively,

Denvel D. Adams,
National Adjutant.

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NATIONAL OFFICERS

1985–86

National Commander

Albert H. Linden, Jr., 807 Maine Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Senior Vice Commander

Kenneth G. Musselmann, 17381 Rob Roy Circle
Huntington Beach, California 92647

First Junior Vice Commander

Gene A. Murphy, 1605 Valley Drive
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

Second Junior Vice Commander

H.A. Geiger, Jr., P.O. Box 2583
Gainesville, Florida 32602

Third Junior Vice Commander

Billy E. Kirby, P.O. Box 306
Clifton, Texas 76634

Fourth Junior Vice Commander

Vernon V. Cardosi, 18 River View Avenue
Saugus, Massachusetts 01906

National Judge Advocate

Boniface R. Maile, 2725 Cadillac Tower
Detroit, Michigan 48226

National Chaplain

Rev. Carl E. Bergstrom, 19 Davidson Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Past National Commander

Chad Colley, 1108 Fifth Terrace
Barling, Arkansas 72923

National Executive Committee

First district: Stanley R. Greeley, 112 Bolton Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02127
Second district: Louis P. Cirillo, 2262 East 1st Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223
Third district: Asiat A. Ali, 9 Seneca Avenue, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452
Fourth district: William L. Slacum, 486 Blackbird Landing Road, Townsend, Delaware 19734
Fifth district: Robert R. Markley, 1148 Union Blvd., Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103
Sixth district: Cleveland Jordan, 242 Emerson Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011
Seventh district: Harry R. McDonald, Jr., Route 1, Box 212-E, Crestview, Florida 32536
Eighth district: P. G. Coop, Route 3, Box 89, Shelbyville, Tennessee 37160
Ninth district: James C. Allred, 161 Goodman Circle, Concord, North Carolina 28025
Tenth district: Edward R. Mecher, 9019 West 50th Road, Cadillac, Michigan 49601
Eleventh district: John Kirch, 24 Japonica Drive, Greenhills, Ohio 45218
Twelfth district: Desmond C. Fortner, 100 W. Vernon Avenue, Normal, Illinois 61761
Thirteenth district: Benjamin F. Green, Jr., 4201 Myers Avenue, Crestwood, Kentucky 40014
Fourteenth district: Joel T. Albrecht, 315 N. Highland, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073
Fifteenth district: Billy R. Hough, 7321 Havelock Avenue, Lincoln, Nebraska 68507
Sixteenth district: Robert R. Jordan, Federal Bldg., Room 5227, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90024
Seventeenth district: Charlie F. Pharr, 146 E. Gordon Avenue, Layton, Utah 84041
Eighteenth district: James J. Murphy, Jr., 4826 North 29th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85016
Nineteenth district: James L. Abbott, 5012 Hasbrook Avenue, N.E., Keizer, Oregon 97303
Twentieth district: Charles A. Altman, 4222 Big Meadows, San Antonio, Texas 78230
Twenty-first district: T. John Edgin, P.O. Box 993, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74802

National Finance Committee

Cleveland Jordan, Chairman, 242 Emerson Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011
Albert H. Linden, Jr., 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024
Louis P. Cirillo, 2262 East 1st Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223
John Kirch, 24 Japonica Drive, Greenhills, Ohio 45218
T. John Edgin, P.O. Box 993, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74802

Albert H. Linden, Jr., National Commander

Disabled American Veterans, 1985–86

Chad Colley, National Commander

Disabled American Veterans, 1984–85

NATIONAL OFFICERS

1984–85

National Commander

Chad Colley, 807 Maine Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Senior Vice Commander

Albert H. Linden, Jr., 6107 Summerhill Road
Camp Springs, Maryland 20748

First Junior Vice Commander

Kenneth G. Musselmann, 17331 Rob Roy Circle
Huntington Beach, California 92647

Second Junior Vice Commander

Gene A. Murphy, 4112 Woodwind Lane
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57103

Third Junior Vice Commander

H.A. Geiger, Jr., P.O. Box 2583
Gainesville, Florida 32602

Fourth Junior Vice Commander

Steven C. Gaudette, RR #1, Box 62, Lebanon Road
North Berwick, Maine 03906

National Judge Advocate

Boniface R. Maile, 2725 Cadillac Tower
Detroit, Michigan 48226

National Chaplain

Rev. Patrick T. Devine, VA Medical Center, 50 Irving Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20422

Past National Commander

Dennis A. Joyner, 1047 Shaner Acre Drive
Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

National Executive Committee

First district: Richard H. Wells, 38 Nixon Road, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701
Second district: Louis P. Cirillo, 2262 East 1st Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223
Third district: John W. Peluse, 357 42nd Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201
Fourth district: William L. Slacum, 486 Blackbird Landing Road, Townsend, Delaware 19734
Fifth district: Marion D. Nesbitt, 529 Antioch Place, Columbia, South Carolina 29209
Sixth district: Cleveland Jordan, 242 Emerson Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011
Seventh district: Robert L. O'Dell, 9738 Griffith Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Eighth district: P.G. Coop, Route 3, Box 89, Shelbyville, Tennessee 37160
Ninth district: Kenneth P. Hale, 235 Freeman Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63129
Tenth district: Edward R. Mecher, 9019 West 50th Road, Cadillac, Michigan 49601
Eleventh district: John Wiedeman, 2419 25th St. Road, Greeley, Colorado 80631
Twelfth district: Desmond C. Fortner, 100 W. Vernon Avenue, Normal, Illinois 61761
Thirteenth district: Robert H. Whitmore, 14229 94th Avenue, N.E., Bothell, Washington 98011
Fourteenth district: Joel T. Albrecht, 315 N. Highland, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073
Sixteenth district: Robert R. Jordan, Federal Bldg., Room 5227, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90024
Eighteenth district: James J. Murphy, Jr., 4826 North 29th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85016
Twentieth district: Billy E. Kirby, P.O. Box 306, Clifton, Texas 76634

National Finance Committee

John W. Peluse. Chairman, 357 42nd Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201
Chad Colley, 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024
John Wiedeman. 2419 25th St. Road, Greeley, Colorado 80631
Cleveland Jordan. 242 Emerson Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011
Billy E. Kirby. P.O. Box 306, Clifton, Texas 76634

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1921-22: Robert S. Marx, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1960).
1922-23: C. Hamilton Cook, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1935).
1923-24: James A. McFarland, Dalton, Georgia (deceased 1942).
1924-25: Frank J. Irwin, New York, New York (deceased 1942).
1925-26: John W. Mahan, Bozeman, Montana (deceased 1947).
1926-27: John V. Clinnin, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955).
1927-28: William E. Tate, Atlanta, Georgia (deceased 1949).
1928-29: Millard W. Rice, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980).
1929-30: William J. Murphy, Santa Ana, California (deceased 1931).
1930-31: H. H. Weimer. Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955).
1931-32: E. Claude Babcock, Washington, D.C. (deceased 1958).
1932-33: William Conley. Los Angeles, California (deceased 1941).
1933-34: Joe W. McQueen. Kansas City, Missouri (deceased 1969).
1934-35: Volney P. Mooney, Jr., Los Angeles, California (deceased 1945).
1935-36: Marvin A. Harlan, El Paso, Texas (deceased 1970).
1936-37: M. Froome Barbour, Cincinnati, Ohio.
1937-38: Maple T. Harl. Denver, Colorado (deceased 1957).
1938-39: Owen Galvin. Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1956).
1939-40: Lewis J. Murphy. South Bend, Indiana (deceased 1966).
1940-41: Vincent E. Schoeck. Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1966).
August 16, 1941-August 15, 1943: Laurence R. Melton, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1975).
August 15, 1943-September 20, 1943: William J. Todd, Jersey City, New Jersey (deceased 1957).
1943-44: James L. Monnahan. Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980).
1944-45: Milton D. Cohn. Buffalo, New York (deceased 1968).
1945-46: Dow V. Walker. Newport, Oregon (deceased 1947).
1946-47: Lloyd F. Oleson. Ventura, California (deceased 1982).
1947-48: John L. Golob, Hibbing. Minnesota (deceased 1976).
1948-49: Jonathan M. Wainwright. San Antonio, Texas (deceased 1953).
1949-50: David M. Brown. Akron. Ohio (deceased 1982).
1950-51: Boniface R. Maile. Grosse Pointe, Michigan.
1951-52: Ewing W. Mays, Little Rock, Arkansas.

1952-53: Floyd L. Ming, Bakersfield, California (deceased 1975).
1953-54: Howard W. Watts, Indianapolis, Indiana (deceased 1977).
1954-55: Alfred L. English, Shelbyville, Tennessee.
1955-56: Melvin J. Maas, Chevy Chase, Maryland (deceased 1964).
1956-57: Joseph F. Burke, Bayonne, New Jersey (deceased 1970).
1957-58: Paul E. Frederick, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio.
1958-59: David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts.
1959-60: Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas.
1960-61: William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas.
1961-62: Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977).
1962-63: Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado.
1963-64: Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan.
1964-65: William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982).
1965-66: Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland.
1966-67: John W. Unger, Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970).
1967-68: Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969).
1968-69: Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington.
1969-70: Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California.
1970-71: Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas.
1971-72: Edward T. Conroy, Bowie, Maryland (deceased 1982).
1972-73: Jack O. Hicks, Larue, Ohio.
1973-74: John T. Soave, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1984).
1974-75: Walter T. Greaney, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.
1975-76: Lyle C. Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota.
1976-77: Frank J. Randazzo, East Meadow, New York.
1977-78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas.
1978-79: Billy O. Hightower, Grand Junction, Colorado.
1979-80: Paul L. Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland.
1980-81: Stan Pealer, Holts Summit, Missouri.
1981-82: Sherman E. Roodzant, Santa Ana, California.
1982-83: Edward G. Galian, New York, New York.
1983-84: Dennis A. Joyner, Apollo, Pennsylvania.
1984-85: Chad Colley, Barling, Arkansas.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS HELD AT NEW ORLEANS, LA, JULY 21-25, 1985

JOINT OPENING SESSION

July 21, 1985

The 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, Sunday afternoon, July 21, 1985, and was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Commander Chad Colley.

Commander **CHAD COLLEY**. I now call to order the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

Denvel D. Adams, our National Adjutant, will read the Call to Convention.

Adjutant **DENVEL D. ADAMS**. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an annual National Convention, composed of the National officers and representatives of the state departments and chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Denvel D. Adams, National Adjutant, declare the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at New Orleans, Louisiana, at 1:00 p.m., July 21, 1985.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force, and such rules as this convention will adopt.

Commander **COLLEY**. Please stand. Present the colors.

[The colors were posted.]

Commander **COLLEY**. Ladies and gentlemen, our National Anthem.

[The National Anthem was sung.]

Commander **COLLEY**. Remain standing and please join me in the plede of allegiance to our flag.

[Pledge of Allegiance was given.]

Commander **COLLEY**. Please remain standing. I will now call on Father Patrick Devine, DAV National Chaplain, for our invocation.

Chaplain Father **PATRICK DEVINE**. Let us pray.

Almighty Father, we are grateful for this convention, which in fact You call and You convene. We thank You for this gift of togetherness for Your good and holy purpose, and so we pray the thought of St. Theresa of Avila: Let nothing disturb us, let nothing frighten us, for all things pass save God, Who does not change.

Be patient and at last we will find all fulfillment. Hold God and nothing will fail us, for He alone is all. Amen.

Commander COLLEY. You may be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the Navy New Orleans Ceremonial Band, conducted by Musician First Class Hanusek. [Applause.]

And even after living in Washington, D.C., with the large military district of Washington, I saw something here this afternoon that I didn't see there—a female Color Guard, as sharp as anything I've seen lately. [Applause.] That was the Navy Support Activity Volunteer Color Guard. And representing the Department of Massachusetts, the men who posted the colors. Thank you. [Applause.]

Now I would like to introduce the National Convention Chairman, for the purpose of welcoming remarks and introduction of local dignitaries. Please welcome John E. Hauck, National Convention Chairman. [Applause.]

JOHN E. HAUCK [National Convention Chairman]. National Commander Chad Colley, National Auxiliary Commander Sally Wilton, National Officers of the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, delegates, friends of the Disabled American Veterans.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the city that care forgot for the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. This is the fourth National Convention to be held in the City of New Orleans, which with the surrounding cities and towns has a mixture of many nationalities, cultures, historical buildings and sights. Since we are known for our hospitality and the many fine restaurants we have, we are sure that you will find one that will suit your taste. As for entertainment away from the convention headquarters, we are sure that there is something to suit everyone.

Of special note is the Superdome, the largest facility of its kind. And, of course, the fabulous French Quarter. I'm sure that everybody can find enterainment to suit their fancy.

Your Convention Committee has worked hard to make this the largest convention possible. We are sure that it will be the largest. We are her to serve you. All you have to do is ask.

Again, welcome to the City of New Orleans and to the largest convention that the Disabled American Veterans has had. Have fun, enjoy yourself, and above all, remember the job that we came here to do. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Johnnie, we appreciate very much the work and care and all that has gone into this convention and appreciate your part in that.

Chairman HAUCK. Representing the Governor of the State of Louisiana this afternoon is the Honorable Robert L. Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana. He was born April 27, 1934, in Washington, D.C. He received his elementary education in the schools of Plaquemine, Louisiana. He graduated from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1956; graduated from Louisiana State University, New Orleans, 1960, and also Loyola University School of Law, New Orleans, 1965, Juris Doctorate.

He served as a special agent in the United States Army counterintelligence corps, receiving an honorable discharge in 1959.

He is president of the law firm of freeman and Pendley, Limited.

His college honors are many, including the holding of a Sugar Bowl record of three consecutive victories in boxing, and was inducted into the LSU Hall of Fame for boxing in 1977.

Elected to the House of Representatives for three consecutive terms before being elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Louisiana.

He is married to the former Marianne Drago and the father of two children.

He is a member of many religious and civic organizations. His awards are many, including the Louisiana Cross of Merit from the Louisiana State Adjutant General.

Join with me in giving a warm DAV welcome to Lieutenant Governor Bobby Freeman, State of Louisiana.

[Rising applause.]

Lieutenant Governor ROBERT L. FREEMAN. Thank you very much. Please take your seats. Thank you.

I am so honored to be here today. Frankly, the Governor is out of the State of Louisiana and asked me to repesent him. I'm very glad he is out of the State of Louisiana. [Laughter.] I like to come in my own capacity, but it's always good to come as Acting Governor, too.

It's really a pleasure to have you here. John was telling you that you are in the city that care forgot. Well, you are in the State that will never forget veterans and disabled veterans, and I can promise you that. [Applause.] You know, even though we are in budgetary straits, John can tell you just recently we opened up a new addition to the War Veterans Home. Just a few years, several years ago it was brought to my attention by a VA officer from my home parish, same as your counties, that we had no more grave sites, no more places to bury our veterans at the veterans cemetary, so working with a few of the companies that own the land around there, and I'm glad they called on me, I was successful in getting them, through our United States senators, to give us some additional land, so now we have other places that we can honor our war dead and bury them in that particular place.

We do remember our people that served us in times of need and, believe me, when I heard you pledging allegiance I know it really meant something to you to pledge allegiance because you are some people that have really pledged allegiance to that flag and have kept that pledge.

I read a story years ago about those who were the first patriots that the United States knew, those were the 56 people that signed the Declaration of Independence, and there are some particular words in there that always mean something to me and I cite them all the time on July 4th. They signed one particular paragraph, a sentence at the bottom of that document that said, "We pledge to you our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." And all of these people were very wealthy, they were landowners, big wealthy people that had nothing to gain, everything to lose, and almost to the man they lost everything they had, they lost their families, they lost lives, they lost their money, but none ever lost his sacred honor. And all though the years that's one thing I think that our veterans can say with pride and Americans can say with pride, that those that have served have served with honor and have served the whole world and not just America.

I have been given three to five minutes to speak, so I'm going to do it fast. You know, just recently, I was in Baton Rouge and I had the same thing, I was giving the welcoming address, and the bishop was next to me and they told the bishop, "You have one minute for the invocation, and Freeman, you have three minutes for the welcome." And I said, "Isn't this crazy? I can't even save your jobs and you give me three minutes. This man can save your soul and you only give him one minute." [Laughter]

But that's the way we work it, I guess, sometimes. Sometimes we put politics ahead of God that's totally wrong and it should never be that way and I know you don't do that.

We are here to say welcome to the city. As you know, Louisiana, like all other states, is having financial problems, so spend as much as you possibly can here. Go home broke. [Laughter.] If you need rides, we will try to find rides.

But we are here to honor you, not to have you honor us, and the Governor has asked me to do something special. I understand that when Chad was in the service, you attained the rank of lieutenant, did you not?

Commander **Colley**. That is right.

Lieutenant Governor **Freeman**. And the Governor has asked that I give you this commission in which he has named you now as a colonel on his staff. So now you have finally reached the rank of colonel. [Applause.] You'll have to talk to the army or one of the other branches for your insignia of rank and for your pay. [Laughter.]

The Governor, being the smart politician that he is, just never gives a male an honor naming him a colonel without doing the same for some lady in the crowd, and he has asked that I present one, also, to a lady that has done much for your axuiliary, a lady who has really taken the ball and worked hard, whose husband, Ray, was a great supporter and always active in the Disabled American Veterans, and he would also like me to present a certificate making her, also, a colonel on his staff, Mrs. Sally Wilton. [Applause.]

And actually I just might tell you in closing that is an official title, because the manager of Elvis Pressley years ago recieved a colonel's commission from Governor Earl Long at that time and ever since then, he has required and demanded that everyone calls him Colonel. So Colonel Chad and Colonel Sally, congratulations. I'm glad I could be a port of this. I'm sorry I have to run very fast, but I have to get back to accept the torch because we are having the National Sports Festival in Baton Rouge starting this week and we are starting with all of our activities with that.

You all have a great convention. Thank you for coming to Louisiana. [Applause.]

Chairman **Hauck**. Representing the Mayor of the City of New Orleans is Wayne J. Riley, Administrative Assistant. He was born in New Orleans in 1959. He attended parochial schools in New Orleans and was an honor graduate of Brother Martin High School, receiving a Golden Crusader, the school's highest honor. He then received a BA degree from Yale University.

Again, let's give a DAV welcome to Wayne B. Riley, one of the youngest administration assistants in the City of New Orleans. [Applause.]

Mr. **Wayne Riley**. Commander Coliey, Auxiliary President Wilton, Lieutenant Governor Freeeman, delegates, friends and guests.

It is my pleasure on behalf of Mayor Ernest N. Morial to welcome you to the 1985 annual Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to New Orleans and Louisiana. I want to assure you that our welcome is warm and heartfelt, sort of like our weather. [Laughter.]

We hope you will enjoy our city and that the proceedings will be beneficial. We hope you will have time to enjoy our city's many fine restaurants, cultural attractions, and that special southern charm that is New Orleans. I guarantee that if you love New Orleans, she'll love you right back.

Have a great week. Thank you. [Applause.]

Senior Vice Commander **Albert H. Linden**, Jr. It is a distinct honor and privilege for me to call on the man who has provided us with such outstanding leadership this past year, that's our National Commander Chad Colley, for his report.

Chad. [Rising Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Thank you.

Distinguished guests, delegates to the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, ladies and gentlemen.

I can sum up my year as your National Commander in three proud words: We did it? [Applause.]

The DAV is a million-member organization that is second to none. To those who said we would never do it, to those who said it can't be done, and to those who said you will fail if you surely try, I say: We did it! [Applause.]

Since that day in late April when we went over a million-member mark, the congratulations have poured in, and it has been a personal, wonderful pleasure for me to accept those congraulations on your behalf.

But let's place the credit and the congratulations where they really belong. Let's consider the people who made the impossible a reality. First, we have my distinguished predecessors. Three years ago, Ed Galian launched our membership campaign. People told him he was laying the foundation for nothing more than a house of cards, but where some people saw only the impossible, Ed saw challenge. Where others saw only barriers, Ed saw the keys to unlocking the doors of success.

When he ended his year as National Commander, there stood a rock-solid foundation of hard work, renewed commitment and determination. The skeptics had been silenced; the pessimists had been exposed to a refreshing sense of optimism.

Dennis Joyner took over the helm from Ed and, without missing a beat, moved us relentlessly toward our goal. Then his year of stewardship was marked by a heightened awareness among each of us that success was our benchmark and that failure simply could not exist in our vocabulary. About that time, no longer were people asking if we would reach our goal, they were asking when we would reach our goal, when will we have our one million members.

When I was elected your National Commander last year, I found myself the leader of an organization that was driven by the limitless boundaries of our imaginations. My job was not to push you or pull you or cajole you toward the goal. The drive was already going, and going at top speed. My job was to get on the wagon or get out of the way.

There were times when I admit that I thought the wagon was moving kind of fast over some uncharted territory. But at the same time, that was true with both Ed and Denny, there was one man in the background who made darned sure that we rode this thing through to the end. It was also the man that, during the darkest moments when you have little seeds of doubts, reminded us how resilient the human spirit really is. Without his wise counsel, persistent guidance and fierce determination, a million members might yet be only a dream.

I am speaking of your personal friend and my personal friend, our National Adjutant, Denvel Dale Adams. [Applause.]

When an organization achieves the success that we have had, priase for that success quite naturally flows to its leadership. Believe me, though, I really know where the praise belongs. No general ever won a battle on his own. It's the troops, the guys in the trenches, on the battlefield who ultimately win the war.

We are a million-member organization because, as your leader, I could not have a more capable, more hard-working group of men, troops in the trenches, than we have got in the organization. I wish I could shake the hand of each and every man and woman in our organization, at every single chapter in every village and town across the nation, but, naturally, that's just not possible.

The credit for achieving one million members falls finally and most importantly to you and every single member of the DAV. It settles upon the men and women who knew that a national goal was going to be met by signing up one new member, and then another, and then another; and seeing that chapters made chapter goals and seeing that departments made department goals.

That was the key, the only key, to our ultimate success. And that's why I can say with as much pride as I can muster: We did it!

But don't let anyone tell you that it's just a numbers game. This year we have seen telling proof that we are playing for much more than just a game.

The drive to achieve a million members, in the end, has been a drive to tell the world what we already know, that no more effective or compelling voice for disabled veterans exists anywhere in the world than the voice of the DAV.

Today I'm proud to report to you that that message has been heard loud and clear in the White House and in the halls of the Congress. One month after we reached our million-member milestone President Reagan appeared on television and said, I quote, "Veterans' disability payments will remain totally exempt from federal taxation." [Applause.] He continued to say, "These Americans have already paid their dues."

The President confirmed to the nation one of the most significant victories in recent memory of the DAV. Little did I realize when I was elected National Commander that we would be given no graphic an example of just how important our million-member clout would be. But that's precisely what happened in response to the administration's plans to tax our disability compensation.

The same single-minded determination that put us over our goals in membership defeated the plans to impose such a tax on our benefits. In the process, it confirmed one of the most significant victories in DAV history and it marked the end of a six-month battle that we waged using the commitment of our DAV members, bipartisan support from Congressional leaders and the unwavering dedication by some key staff officials.

How did we do it? Simple. It was the clout of a million-member organization pulling together that convinced the White House that taxing disability benefits was simply a bad idea.

How did we do it? It's people just like you and me that saw an injustice and they got mad, and more importantly they channeled that anger into action. They knew they were right. They knew that they had paid their dues with blood and lost limb and sightless eyes and broken bodies. And just as they had never turned their back from a flight before, they didn't turn their fight either.

The result was an avalanche of letters and phone calls and personal letters with members of Congress, the Treasury Department and the White House. Our members launched a grass-roots effort of historic proportion. Thousands upon thousands of DAV member and Auxiliary members wrote. The White House, the Treasury Department and the VA reported that they received over 30,000 letters, while countless thousands of others poured in to members of the House and the Senate.

On Capitol Hill legislative staffs said they were inundated with letters opposing the tax plan. Boxes of these letters started stacking up in the halls of the VA central office. The stacks grew by all of them they sent over from the White House because the White House, quite frankly, didn't know what to do with them. The volume was impressive.

But in the eyes of many legislators, what the letters had to say was much more important. And the fact that we could wage such a fast, timely, hardworking effort in such a short period of time gave notice of the fact that we had joined a fight that, quite frankly, we didn't intend to lose. In the House and the Senate resolutions were introduced condemning the Treasury Department's plan to tax our compensation.

When we published in the magazine the names of those who chose to co-sponsor those resolutions, many of your legislatures suddenly found that it was awfully uncomfortable to sit on the fence and they came on board. Even after the President took the proposal out of the fire and defeated it as a proposal, right up to the very start of this convention we still had people wanting to be listed as a co-sponsor of that legislation.

When I was elected your National Commander I told you that my family and I would move to Washington, D.C., in order to more effectively work for you on behalf of the DAV. Now that that year draws to a close, I want to share with you some of my observations about how the DAV does business in Washington, what I saw and heard and what the future holds for all of us.

During my year I have visited with a great number of Senators and Representatives and agency heads and senior administration officials. With some few notable exceptions, I found the doors readily opened to the DAV. I am convinced that the DAV enjoys a higher and more credible reputation in our nation's capitol than does any other servies organization anywhere. Your elected officials in Washington are eager to work with us, anxious to learn and grateful for our efforts on behalf of their constituents, this nation's veterans.

Time and time again I heard it said that if the DAV had not assumed a leadership role in a given issue, quite frankly, it might have died a quiet death. Time and time I heard our efforts described as a potent force for change in preservation of what is right for our nation's veterans. Time and time again I heard the moans of our adversaries, the people particularly who continue to believe that budget cutting is a higher calling than preservation of our national commitments.

Before I moved to Washington, D.C., I was convinced that we had the best staff of any organization in the nation's capital. Now I know that they were far better than I had even imagined. Daily they demonstrate that only the best is good enough for disabled veterans and for all-encompassing commitment. It needs nothing but your best effort.

It is an attitude we all know that has been instilled over the years by our National Adjutant, Dale Adams. It's an attitude that's daily reflected by each and every staff member, be they Cincinnati or Washington. The continued growth of one of the best operating and most prudently managed organizations anywhere is a testament to our commitment to the best.

In giving the job at hand our best efforts, we have also tried to put that best effort before the public eye. We have had some notable successes in doing just that.

During my travels this year I have visited with thousands of our members, visited countless chapters and departments. I was welcomed to your functions, involved in your meetings and enjoyed the hospitality of your home and homeland. I saw and heard and felt a sense of excitement. It's the kind of excitement you feel when you know you have beaten the odds.

It feeds on surprise. It's kind of like the surprise that we got that was in the eyes of many people who felt that we had set an unattainable goal and then we just beat the pants off of that goal. It's the kind of excitement that for many of us is truly addictive.

Our men and women tell me that they want to do more, they want to sustain the exhilaration that comes with success and accomplishment and dedication. They, too, like being the best and they are ready to do whatever it takes to stay on top.

It's with mixed emotions, then, that I tell them that many victories remain to be won, that the most serious threats to our nation's system of veterans programs and services are still over the horizon. Even now our adversaries are mustering their forces for a fullscale assault.

As we meet here in New Orleans, a cloud gathers over our national sense of duty. Our citizens are being told that everything we have and all that we are has a price tag. Listen, when I was sent to

Vietnam I didn't ask if I thought my country could afford the cost of my having served or serving in Vietnam. The medics who saved my life didn't stop to consider the long-term financial obligation that was incurring at their hands. The chopper pilot didn't try to cut a better deal and didn't try to renege on his obligations because all of a sudden the LZ was a little hot. So many of you in this room saved a life or were saved by your comrades. We are here today because Americans did their duty for their fellow Americans.

Now, a growing number of people are telling us, duty is fine so long as the price isn't steep, and national obligations are dandy unless you have to write a check for them and promises should really be kept unless they are broken by an accountant's pencil.

Now, I ask you, are these the beliefs that you and I went to war for? Is this the legacy I want to leave to my children's children? Is the Constitution suddenly negotiable? Are the Bill of Rights subject to the interpretation of an accountant? I can say, and you will concur emphatically, no, we didn't go to war for those. More than ever we need to reaffirm the principles that made America the greatest land in the world.

We're a special people that uniquely celebrates individual self worth and a shared destiny. No land or no people holds life more dear, duty more sacred or honor more revered than does our people.

During the past year we've seen concerted efforts to turn this nation's commitments to its veterans into a price war of reneged obligations. Sure, such threats have happened before and they've been effectively thwarted. The difference today is that never before have we seen such a widespread and concerted effort to forget about why we fought and how we were disabled in the first place. Never before have we heard such a chorus of "Cut costs at any cost." Never before have we seen such a national amnesia develop over the service we performed and the sacrifices that we made in defense of our homes, our families and our nation.

During the past year many of you have performed at levels that exceeded your boldest goal, and you were called on to do your fair share and much more. Now I must ask you to redouble your efforts. It's my duty to tell you that the fight of a lifetime is just beginning. I have learned during my year as your National Commander that no one else will do it for us. Just like when you were in the service, we depended upon each other; that's how we got by. And that is what we must rely on for our success now. Each of us has made sacrifices on behalf of each other and the organization we serve.

At this time I must acknowledge a special personal sacrifice. To my wife, Betty Ann, son Ryan and daughter Emily, seldom has a husband and father asked greater sacrifice of his family. The move to Washington took you from your family and your home and your friends. And once we arrived in Washington, you found that I was gone about as often as I was there. But yet you bore the pain of separation and dislocation with grace and good humor, sometimes [laughter], and faith, faith in what had to be done. After all, it was my job and I was committed to it and you knew that once we finished, we would be going home.

People ask me, "Chad, what in the world are you going to do now?" I'm going to go back and be husband and father to that family. [Applause.]

Delegates to the 64th Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, distinguished guest, ladies and gentleman, it will shortly be time for the Colley family to go home. I end my year of service with pride, pride in what our organization has accomplished. So many people say, "Chad, we had a great year, *your* year, you did real good." And, you know, I feel uncomfortable. It was *our* year.

I was on the elevator this morning and got that remark and I made my standard statement, "It was our year," and this lady said, "Well, you know, you sure had a super opportunity to lead a bunch of great men and women." And that's the kind of year it's been.

As a point of personal privilege, let me say to the membership of our organization: No one, anywhere, could ever treat an individual any more graciously, any more loving than you have me this year. It's really something that defies description. I appreciate it. You have touched me deeply.

To the staff of our organization, this is the greatest bunch of men and women in the world. I tell you, I love them. I feel privileged to have served with them, to watch them do their thing, to be a part of it. They are a great group and they would be a success at anything in this world they wanted to take on, but they chose to work for you and they are special in my book because of it.

And to my officers, guys, anything I have asked you have done on my behalf or on behalf of the organization. I appreciate you. I thank you. I'm so pleased that you are willing to take on a challenge, because we have certainly got it.

My only hope is that next year and the years to follow, that my predecessors can come before you and be able to say: We did it! [Applause.]

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. May God bless each and every one of you. Thank you.

[Rising applause.]

Chairman Linden. Chad, thanks to you, we did it.

The Chair will entertain a motion now to accept the National Commander's Report.

Mr. Freeman. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Linden. Yes, sir.

Mr. Freeman. Paul Freeman, Department of Oklahoma, move that the report be accepted.

Mr. Tobol. Stanley Tobol, Massachusetts No. 9, seconds.

Chairman Linden. Motion has been made and seconded to accept the National Commander's Report. All those in favor signify by saying Aye. So ordered. [Laughter.]

Commander Colley. I appreciate that.

Immediately before I introduce my Line Officers and the National Executive Committee, I would like to read a letter that we received from the White House:

> I am honored to send my warmest greetings to the Disabled American Veterans as you gather for your 64th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.
>
> We can never be as good as we should to those who make the sacrifices and take the risks required by serving in your nation's military. No group of our country's

veterans has sacrificed or risked more than you in upholding the liberties and sacred rights that are so basic to America in its way of life.

The price that you paid in fighting for your flag and nation illustrates dramatically your patriotism and commitment to your fellow citizens. Your tenacity and never giving up has inspired all Americans and advanced the cause of veterans and the disabled everywhere. Truly, you embody the finest qualities of human spirit.

You have my best wishes for your individual and collective efforts for an enjoyable convention and for the future success of your esteemed organization.

God bless you in your wonderful endeavors and the continued service of your comrades and the republic that we all love so much.—Signed, Ronald Reagan.

[Applause.]

Now I would like to introduce my line officers and, if you would, could we wait and hold the applause until I have them all introduced.

My right-hand man, the National Senior Vice Commander, Albert H. Linden, Jr., of Maryland.

1st Junior Vice Commander, Kenneth G. Musselmann of California.

Please remain standing, guys.

2nd Junior Vice Commander, Gene A. Murphy of South Dakota.

3rd Junior Vice Commander, H. A. Geiger, Jr., of Florida.

4th Junior Vice Commander, Steven C. Gaudette of Maine.

National Judge Advocate, Boniface R. Maile of Michigan.

National Chaplain, Father Patrick Devine of Massachusetts.

And a guy who gave me a running start at this job, Immediate Past National Commander, Dennis A. Joyner of Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

Your National Executive Committee is comprised of the following gentlemen: Representing the 1st District, Richard H. Wells of Massachusetts; the 2nd, Louis P. Cirillo of New York; 3rd is John Peluse of Pennsylvania; 4th is William Slacum of Delaware; 5th is Marion D. Nesbitt of South Carolina; 6th is Cleveland Jordan of Washington, D.C.; 7th is Robert O'Dell of Ohio; 8th is P. G. Coop of Tennessee; 9th is Kenneth P. Hale of Missouri; 10th is Edward Mecher of Michigan; 11th is John Wiedeman of Colorado; 12th is Desmond Fortner of Illinois; 13th is Robert Whitmore of Washington State; 14th is Joel Albrecht of Minnesota; 16th is Robert Jordan of California; 18th is James Murphy of Arizona; and 20th is Billy Kirby of Texas. [Applause.]

And of great assistance to me this year was your National Chief of Staff, Joe T. Steward of Arkansas. [Applause.]

If we were to contemplate all the victories and all the reasons for the DAV's many victories this past year, one of the most prominent would be the valuable assistance of our sister organization, the DAV Auxiliary, and if were to examine why the DAV Auxiliary has been so important, we would come to the conclusion it is because of the leadership of a lady who has been the organization's Commander during our year, Sally Wilton.

These skills aren't something Sally just yanked out of a grab bag. Years and years of experience as a devoted wife, mother and school teacher provided this terrific lady with the leadership skills needed for all the chairships at all the unit and department levels and several elected offices, including Unit and Department Commander.

All of this prepared Sally for working her way up the chain of command in the DAV Auxiliary and all of Sally's hard work, leadership skill, and dedication to the disabled vets and their families have culminated in many of the DAV's greatest accomplishments in 1984 and '85.

Please help welcome a tremendous terrific lady, one that the DAV will never forget, one that I love and admire so much, DAV Auxiliary National Commander, Sally Wilton.

[Rising applause.]

National Commander SALLY WILTON. Thank you very much.

Commander Colley, I'd like to thank you for those kind words. It has been more than a joy to serve with you over the past three years. And I guess if I could have taken my choice of anyone I wanted to be with, I think it still would have been you, Chad. I love you. [Applause.]

You know, I think that Lieutenant Governor has a real smart boss. If we had a few more lady colonels, we wouldn't have had the disabled veters we have today, I can tell you that much. [Applause.]

My warm greetings to the National Officers of the DAV and Auxiliary and to our distinguished guests and my warmest greetings to you, ladies and gentlemen in the audience. You have come from all over the United States for one reason. You care about what happens to our disabled veterans and you care about the people who are the primary focus of the organization I represent, the families of the Disabled American Veterans.

It's been a great year for the DAV and the Auxiliary. The DAV surpassed its goal of a million-member power and I'm proud of the help the Auxiliary members gave the DAV in pursuit of that dream. I believe the DAV set an example for us in the Auxiliary. We, too, should set our sights on million-member strength. I'm proud to report that the Auxiliary had a good membership year as well. We sailed past our membership goals to close out the year with a record 109,561 members.

A benchmark achievement came with the defeat of the Treasury Department's proposal to tax service-connected disability benefits. I was thrilled to learn that the letters and phone calls of the Auxiliary members again played a pivotal role in this crucial legislative victory.

During the past calendar year our organization stacked up a record of one and a half million hours of volunteer work in VA hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical facilities. And I don't think I need to say any more about commitment to serving the hospitalized veterans. What more could be said?

During the past 12 years we have also begun what will be a long march toward justice in benefits for the widows, widowers, and orphans of veterans who died due to service-connected casualties. Our battle for an equitable DIC payment formula may be long, but it's a battle the DAV and the Auxiliary will win. [Applause.]

Having hit these highlights of the past year's achievements, I'd like to tell you a couple stories. The first involves a widow whose letter to the DAV appeared in the DAV Magazine a couple of months ago. Her name is Patricia.

Patricia's husband, Frank, was a military retiree. He also had a service-connected disability. As a result of his military service, he believed any medical problems he faced in later life would be taken care of. The armed forces had promised him terrific medical benefits for his post-retirement years. If that wasn't enough, he was a disabled veteran, so he felt he could count on the VA. How wrong he was!

Frank developed cancer and it took his life slowly, so slowly that he used up every medical entitlement he had long before his death. And then he was shuttled from one medical facility to another, a very sick man, until death finally ended the horror for him and his family.

But the medical bills ate up everything Frank and Patricia had saved and Frank's widow was destitute when the DAV finally found out about what was happening to her. Needless to say, she was very angry. She believed that the most important person in her life, a man who had sacrificed much for America, had been shuffled around like a deck of cards and treated like dirt.

This was a tragedy. The DAV found out about this case too late to do anything for Frank. And, at this point, there is very little we can do for his widow.

But you know what bothers me most about this story? There, but by the grace of God, go I. And the same goes for every woman sitting in this audience.

Patricia didn't know that the DAV's National Service Program existed, that its sole purpose is to prevent this sort of thing from happening to her family. She didn't even know that our NSOs, the finest veterans benefit experts anywhere, were at her disposal free of charge. And when she found out, it was too late.

After reading what happened in the DAV Magazine, some Auxiliary members have asked, why didn't the DAV learn about this case sooner when something could have been done? And that's a legitimate question as far as it goes. But I don't like it because it evades another question: Where was the DAV Auxiliary? We could have helped, too. And the families of disabled veterans are our primary concern.

The second story I want to tell you will appear in the DAV Magazine very soon. It involves a widow who lives on a family farm in Kansas. And, thank God, this one has a happy ending.

This woman was within days of losing her farm, a farm that had been in her family for a century. When she learned that the highest level of appeal in the VA denied her DIC claim, she figured she would have to sell the farm to survive.

She didn't know there were veterans' service organizations that could help her. A DAV national service office just happened to learn what was going on when she was on the very brink of disaster. He got in touch with her, refiled the claim and won the DIC benefits she had given up any hope of winning. Today she is living a secure life on her farm in Kansas and she will be able to pass that farm along to her son, who is helping her operate the farm.

When this DAV story shows up in the DAV Magazine, some of our Auxiliary members will again point a finger at the parent organization and they will ask why destitution was knocking on the widow's door before a DAV NSO came onto the scene. But, again, we should be pointing the finger back at ourselves asking why the Auxiliary wasn't there when this women needed us. She is supposed to be the focal point of our organization's activities, is she not?

But let's forget about the pointing of fingers at anyone and let's look to the future of this great organization. It's always been my feeling that if you are still bragging about what you did in the past, you are not doing anything today, and I'm sure you have heard me say that before.

I have noticed that this future orientation has dominated the convention reports of the DAV National Commanders for the past several years. And I have also noticed that Florence Daley picked up this same forward-looking approach in the report she delivered to you as the Auxiliary National Commander at last year's convention. As far as I am concerned, Florence's speech opened up new grounds. And I would like to go back to the stories of the two widows I just told you in order to make certain points.

What these women needed was information, information the DAV Auxiliary could have provided. First off, they needed to know that the DAV and Auxiliary were there to help and they needed to know the telephone number and address of the nearest DAV National Service Officer. They need a good deal of information about their husbands' vital statistics, if you will, before their husbands die.

And, gentlemen, I'm saying to you, if your lady does not have this information, be sure she knows where to find it. The DAV Auxiliary can provide the vehicle for getting that information to the wife of the disabled veteran.

Further, when a disabled veteran dies, members of the Auxiliary unit can go to the home to offer the Auxiliary's help with anything that needs to be done. We should show these women our concern and we should give them our love.

It comes right down to a question of service—serving the women who are members of the Auxiliary, serving those who are eligible for membership.

As I've said before, the DAV set an example for the Auxiliary when they reached the million-member power. We saw what is possible for an organization that sets its mind to the task at hand. We saw what can be done when an organization sets goals for its future and goes after those goals with single-minded purpose.

There is no reason why the Auxiliary can't attain the membership strength our parent organization enjoys today and there is no reason why we can't triple that membership strength. But we in the Auxiliary must look to ourselves if we want to get the job done. If we are going to get a million members in our Auxiliary, we have to ask ourselves what those ladies expect, and they expect an organization that serves their needs. They expect service from the DAV Auxiliary and they have a right to their expectations.

We aren't doing the Auxiliary's business if we allow our meetings and other activities to deteriorate into petty bickering. The women eligible for this organization expect us to be taking action on things that really matter to the families of the disabled veterans. If we have programs that provide vehicles for that action, those women will see what we are doing and they will be attracted to our ranks.

We are an organization of well over 100,000 women and we are capable of that kind of assertive action. When an auxiliary unit or department sees a real need that isn't being served, it should not look to the DAV chapter or department for a response. [Applause.] Thank you.

We should look to ourselves for solutions to the problems of our families. Again, we are an organization of more than 100,000 members and we can shoulder that responsibility. Our meetings should zero in on information that's relevant to the lives of the disabled veterans' families. All of us, for example, should be pretty well versed in VA benefits for spouses, children, other dependents and survivors of disabled veterans. But we do have that kind of information. And can we share it with other women in our communities? Are we sharing it? And what can we do to share it better?

What are we doing about the issues that relate directly to the families of the disabled veterans, legislative issues like our battle for a just, DIC payment formula? If we really mustered the collected strength of the 100,000 women we have in our ranks, look at what we could do. And that's the job those women out there expect us to do. When they see us doing that job, really doing it, we will soon see one million members in the DAV Auxiliary.

And here is the way I see it. If there is one area in which VA benefits for the families of disabled veterans need to be improved, the Auxiliary still faces a challenge. If there is one family out there that isn't getting benefits that are available, we have got our work cut out for us.

As long as there is one wife in America who has no one to turn to as she tries to cope with her husband's disabilities, the Auxiliary has not touched all the lives we need to touch. If there is one family that is falling apart because of unresolved stresses carried home from war, the Auxiliary must reach out its hand. As long as there is one widow who isn't getting the benefits a disabled vet has earned for her, the Auxiliary has a summons to action.

The DAV Auxiliary is more than one hundred thousand women strong. We expect to be an organization of one million women and ours will be a powerful force for change in the lives of families across this great country.

We in the Auxiliary are those families. Anything we do for each other we are doing for ourselves. Our work is the assertion of the love through which our organization was founded and upon which it thrives. That love will move us into tomorrow as we pick up the challenges that face us today. We will move boldly into our future with enthusiasm and determination that is unmatched anywhere in this nation and I know that's true because I know our women. They are the greatest women in the world, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and I truly believe that. [Applause.]

Chad, to you and your staff, I truly want to thank you and Denvel and your national organization, our national organization. You have been a great help to me. And to the national staff in Cincinnati and our national Auxiliary officers, a very, very special thanks to you. I think that we have had a great year. We can do a lot better, but we are on that road and none of us could have done it without you. You are the ones who made it so great. And, again, I want to thank you. [Applause.]

And, Chad, the Auxiliary would like to present to you a little bit of appreciation for the great work you have done this year and to help us.

This is presented to our Chad Colley in appreciation for distinguished service given to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, L. Kit Seal, Sally Wilton.

Thank you. And that's from all of us. [Applause.]

At this time, it gives me a great pleasure to introduce our National Officers and our Convention Chairman. To my left, would you please rise. Hold your applause and we will thank them all at one time.

Pat Haas, Convention Chairman and new mommy; Mary Ellen Sissman, National Chaplain; Shelia Allred, National 4th Junior Vice Commander; Rose Schilpp, National 3rd Junior Vice Commander; Katherine Pearson, National 2nd Junior Vice Commander; Loneita Shoemaker, National 1st Junior Vice Commander; Betty Wimmer, National Senior Vice Commander; Maria Tedrow, National Assistant Adjutant; Lucille McCarthy, National Judge Advocate; and our own Kit Seal, National Adjutant. And, ladies, my thanks to you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Thank you, Commander Wilton.

Ladies and gentlemen, comrades and guests, one of the things I like about this lady is she is bold, and her convention report certainly gives indication of that fact. She is aggressive and I like that.

At this time, I feel very fortunate to present a very special award to a very special person. Fortunate to me because I also received this award in 1970 and nothing I have ever received meant any more to me or has since than does that award.

Armando Albarran's philosophy is that life is full of rewards. He says, "Strive to do the best with what you have and life will pay you back in many ways." That's what he has learned from the 19 years since he lost his legs during a Viet Cong ambush.

He began doing the best with what he had by taking one day at a time. His love of family strengthened him and helped him through extensive physical therapy. It wasn't long before he realized that he wanted to direct his career toward helping others because he, himself, had been helped by so many.

Armed with a Bachelor's degree in education and a Master's degree in guidance and counseling, he has helped hundreds of people as a job placement specialist and vocational rehabilitation specialist.

Today he works at the San Antonio VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling Division, where he handles more than 200 active files and travels over 1,000 miles each month.

Armanda is one who believes a person must be active to stay healthy, so he has involved himself in everything he can—his family, his work, his church, his community, everything.

It now gives me great pleasure to present him with the DAV 1985 National Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year Award, knowing full well that it will mean as much to him as it did to me. Please recognize a great disabled veteran. [Rising applause.]

[Reading:]

The National Commander's Award to the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Armando Albarran, San Antonio, Texas, 1985, for conspicuous and meritorious effect in overcoming a severe service-connected disability to the end that you have achieved success and a high order of accomplishment in your vocational effort of choice. Further, that such consistent and noteworthy accomplishments will ever serve as an inspiration and challenge to your comrades.

[Applause.]

Mr. **Armando Albarran**. Thank you, National Commander Colley.

Commander Colley, National Officers and Staff, distinguished guests and conventional delegates.

In 1966 I became eligible for one of the most exclusive organizations in this county, the DAV. Exclusive not because of things usually associated with wealth, but because of its wealth of compassion, comaraderie, dignity, integrity and a unique concern for the American disabled veteran and their families.

Little did I know 19 years ago when I joined this organization that some day I would be sitting before you as the recipient of this organization's highest award. And for what? Just for doing what I believe in.

Ladies and gentlemen, after my selection for this award Commander Colley stated, "Albarran's selection for this award is based on his dedication and commitment to helping disabled veterans lead lives of dignity and self-respect." This is the fundamental principles upon which the DAV was founded. It is not something unique to me; it is something of deep significance to everyone in this room. Each of you approach your daily responsibilities using the same approach as I.

Therefore, I accept this award not only just for myself and my family, but for you.

I didn't develop my skill for assisting disabled veterans, handicapped individuals and their families in college or from reading textbooks. Like most of you, there was someone there to teach me. For me, his name was Harmon A. Bardwell, a DAV National Service officer in San Antonio.

Though Mr. Bardwell is now deceased, he is still with me. He first started working with me when I returned from Vietnam to the hospital in San Antonio. You might say he is the guy who got me started in this great organization. And there is an army of Mr. Bardwells out there passing those skills on to still more people who need their help. They are the members of the DAV National Service Officer Corps. And it is not only the NSOs who are helping. Every member of the DAV is involved, from individual chapter members to the fantastic work done in our VA medical centers by the DAV Women's Auxiliary. [Applause.]

I am truly grateful to all of you for the time and courtesies you have extended day after day to make this such a great organization.

We all have tucked away in our minds some very special people who have given us that added lift when times were hard. As you may guess, my family tops that list. My wife, Tillie, my children, Adam, Angie and Aimee, and my mom and dad. I want to thank them again for the support they have given me through the years. They made this day possible. [Applause.]

Tillie, will you please stand up. Adam, Angie and Aimee. [Applause.] I love you all.

During the months since I was selected for this honor, I've had the pleasure to visit with the President of the United States and various other leaders of this great country, including Tip O'Neill and Bob Dole. I'm willing to bet that no other individual so honored, no matter what organization he belongs to, can match the honors I have received.

Nineteen years ago Mr. Bardwell and the chapters in the San Antonio area awarded me the best gift I have ever received. That gift is with me today and will be with me for the rest of my life, a life membership in the DAV. [Applause.]

I'm committed to this organization for life in the same way this organization is committed to helping disabled American veterans everywhere.

Long ago on a battlefield in Vietnam, an army medic rushed to my side to help save my life after my legs were blown off by an enemy bobby trap. No one told him he had to, no one forced him to risk his life to help me, but he did.

The DAV is much like that medic. No one forces us to help each other, no one makes us fight for veterans' benefits, but we do. We do believe in helping each other because we believe in the principles of this great organization.

Once again, on behalf of my family and on your behalf, I accept this award. I thank you and may God bless you all. [Rising applause.]

Commander COLLEY. We are not the only ones who are proud of Armando. I would like to take a moment to read the remarks in the Congressional Record on the 27th of June that were read into the record by New Mexico Representative Bill Richardson, who is with the Hispanic Congressional Caucus. I quote:

> Yesterday the Congressional Hispanic Caucus joined the Disabled American Veterans and all Americans across this nation in proudly saluting Mr. Armando Albarran, the disabled Veteran of 1985.

Mr. Albarran's selection for the award was based on his dedication and commitment to helping disabled veterans and their families lead lives of dignity and self-respect. He lost both legs in South Vietnam in 1966, yet he works full time as a vocational rehabilitation specialist with the San Antonio Veterans Administration and maintains an active case load of more than 200 individuals and travels over 1,000 miles a month in the San Antonio region.

Mr. Albarran's incomparable courage and heroism strengthens American patriotism and reaffirms our appreciation for those who made such painful sacrifices for our nation.

Mr. Albarran's motto, "Strive to do the best with what you have and life will pay you back in many ways," poignantly captures his indomitable, cheerful and positive spirit.

He is a glowing example and reminder of gallantry, not just to our youth, but to all of us who may forget from time to time what life is all about. Unquote.

Thank you, Armando. [Applause.]

Two other very special awards that we present each year are next on the agenda. I'm going to present the George H. Seal Memorial Award to Eddie Flynn of Largo, Florida, and Connie Rohr of Jamaica, New York.

During the past year the DAV and Auxiliary members donated one and one-half million hours of their time to VAVS volunteer work with patients at VA medical facilities. Their material donations surpass a million dollars every year in addition to the time they put in.

Typifying their dedication to hospitalized veterans are the annual winners of the George H. Seal Memorial Award. At every National Convention this award is presented to two members whose volunteer work exemplifies the spirit of the DAV and Auxiliary VAVS programs.

The award is named for the late George H. Seal, a man who won a permanent place in the hearts of so many of us here. For more than 10 years, Mr. Seal served as DAV's National VAVS representative. He also served many years on the National VAVS Advisory Committee.

His dedication is now memorialized in the George H. Seal Trophy, a large Revere bowl kept on permanent display at DAV National Headquarters in Cincinnati. Each year the names of award recipients are inscribed on the bowl, and a replica of this trophy is given to each recipient.

Today, I have the privilege to make the eighth annual presentation of the Seal Award to Eddie Flynn of DAV Chapter No. 143, Largo, Florida, and Connie Rohr of DAV Auxiliary Unit No. 35, Jamaica, New York. [Applause.]

Mr. Flynn has been a volunteer for only five years and has already given more than five thousand hours of service. Most of this time his service has been as a Hospice volunteer working with terminally ill patients. Service as a Hospice volunteer is an extremely difficult assignment. Mr. Flynn is on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and must possess an objective attitude.

He helps families prepare wills, funeral arrangements, calm emotional crises, and even helps with grocery shopping if necessary. He also manages a one-bedroom trailer across from the hospital that serves as temporary housing for out-of-town families of terminally ill patients.

Mrs. Rohr has been an active volunteer for more than twelve years and also has given five thousand hours of service. Her infectious spirit and enthusiasm brighten the patients' days and serve as an example to other volunteers.

After working at her newsstand from 4:00 a.m., to 9:00 a.m., she will bring in her unsold newspapers to the hospitalized veterans. She is also involved in nursing, escorting patients, the Sunshine Committee, recruitment of new volunteers, and several recreational projects.

Mrs. Rohr's volunteer work isn't confined to the medical center. She often travels to receive gifts to distribute to the patients. And on holidays she invites patients to her own home for dinner and takes those who are lonely on outings. The chief of voluntary service at Mrs. Rohr's hospital said that Connie has a hug, a smile, and a "Praise God" for everyone.

I think the work that these people are doing is simply fantastic. Please give them a warm affectionate and enthusiastic applause as I ask you to join with me in presenting these awards. [Rising applause.]

Mrs. CONNIE ROHR. I am blessed by the Almighty God that gives the ability to do what I want to do. If it wasn't for my children, they take care of the household chores and I do my volunteer work. As I say, as I look at each and every one of you, you are my friends, my loved ones. I have known you for many years and I'm the proudest woman in the world.

I want to say, God bless you, God loves you and so do I. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander Colley. During the past year as your National Commander, I have had more than my share of memorable experiences. Now I'm about to go through another one of those wonderful experiences. We have been looking for this guy. He was out there. And I want you to know that you ought to get the same thrill out of it as I do.

On April 2nd, the DAV signed up its one millionth member. Our computers at National Headquarters identified that millionth member as a 57-year-old service disabled veteran of both Korea and Vietnam from Amarillo, Texas, a guy that Johnnie Goodman signed up.

He is here with us today for everyone to meet, the millionth member of the DAV, the guy we looked for for three years hard and diligently, and he was right down there in Amarillo. Please recognize Bert Pinales and his wife. [Rising applause.]

[Reading]:

> The Disabled American Veterans proudly recognizes Umberto G. Pinales of Amarillo, Texas, as the one millionth member of the Disabled American Veterans. For his contributions to the welfare of our country by virtue of his service, the DAV also thanks him for helping the organization to achieve its million-member goal six months ahead of schedule. We have affixed to this, as of July 21, 1985, Life Membership No. 493917, signed by your National Adjutant Dale Adams, properly inscribed by the National Commander and, again, Dale Adams.

[Applause.]

And, also, we chose to give him another memento that perhaps he can set in a prominent place, we feel very special. It's a soaring eagle. If there is anything our organization has done this last year, it's soar. [Applause.]

Mr. Pinales. Forgive me for showing emotions, but this is the greatest day of my life. What can a man say when he has been on the receiving end of you, the DAV. I feel as a rookie because I have only been in your organization for a very few months. That's why I'm here, the reason I'm here.

I came in contact with the DAV very shortly after I retired from military service after 31 years of service. Three persons that I would like to recognize for putting me here, and the ones that have helped me in settling my disability, one is Ron McCarty from Lubbock, Texas, is the first man that came to my help when I needed it, and there is another gentleman out of San Antonio from the Dwyer Street office, Mr. Osuna. Thank you very much for the assistance you gave me. And, Johnnie, for corralling me that one afternoon [laughter] and signing me to this wonderful organization.

All I have in my heart is thanks and gratitude. I want to thank God for my country, thank God for the DAV, thank you all very much. [Applause.]

Commander Colley. Now I would like to present Past National Commander Paul L. Thompson, the guy that was Chairman of Membership and Voluntary Services Committee, and the guy that we would not let leave the job until he got it done. For the presentation of Membership Awards, please recognize Past Commander Paul Thompson. [Applause.]

Past Commander PAUL L. THOMPSON. Before I make my remarks, I would like to ask is Bobby Weldon in the house, Bobby Weldon from Chapter 43 in Georgia? If you are, please come up to the podium.

From the Floor. I'm Department Commander from the Department of Georgia. Bobby Weldon is not here.

Past Commander THOMPSON. Come on up to the podium.

Commander Colley, Commander Sally Wilton, National Officers of the Disabled American Veterans and Disabled American Veterans' Auxiliary, and fellow delegates.

You heard earlier that in 1982 at the 61st National Convention of Disabled American Veterans in Las Vegas, Past National Commander Ed Galian unveiled a new membership program that we wanted to get a million members by December 31, 1985. There were many doubting Thomases at that convention. They said it can't be done, it's impossible, and it won't be done. But I never had any doubt in my mind from the instant that the program was initiated that we would make this million-member goal and go above it. My only question was, "How soon?"

And today I'm tremendously excited to appear before you because I cannot remember a year in which the DAV has scored so many victories as we have scored in the past 12 months. And in my estimation the greatest victor has been in the area of membership where we hit the one million member goal eight months ahead of the established deadline. That has to tell you something. We do have the power.

And now with the assistance from National Commander Colley, it is time to honor those Chapters and Departments which have distinguished themselves over the past year in outstanding membership recruitment effort.

And first, for the Department with the greatest percentage increase in life membership, from 1,398 life members to 1,699 life members, for an increase of 21 percent, the Department of Delaware. Past Department Commander Bill Slacum will accept the award. [Applause.]

For the Department with the greatest numerical increase in life members, from 48,016 to 51,270, a gain of 3,254 life members, the Department of California. Commander Glen Halsey will accept the award. [Applause.]

For the Chapter with the largest percentage increase in membership we have a real winner. In Colquitt County Chapter 43 of Georgia, from 21 members to 95 members, for an unbelievable increase of 352 percent. The award will be accepted by the Department Commander, L. A. Adkins. [Applause.]

For the Chapter with the greatest numerical increase, from 4,484 members to 5,061, for an increase of 577 members, Minneapolis Chapter No. 1 is the winner. Commander Rolf Olson will accept the award. [Applause.]

And now for the Divisional Awards.

In Division 5, the award goes to the Department of Vermont, Commander John Cleveland, which exceeded its goal by 16.28 percent. Asiat Ali, Past Department Commander, will accept the award. [Applause.]

Past Department Commander ASIAT ALI [Department of Vermont]. Past National Commander Paul Thompson, National Commander Chad Colley, National Auxiliary Commander Sally Wilton, other National Officers, distinguished guests.

On behalf of the the Department of Vermont and my past departed Commander John Cleveland, it is a great honor and privilege to accept this award on his behalf. If John were here, I'm certain he would say, "Chad, thank you very much. However, I didn't do it by myself. I would like to thank the National organization, my Department, my Auxiliary Department, my Chapters and their members and recruiters."

Again, Chad, on behalf of John, thank you very much. [Applause.]

Chairman THOMPSON. In Division 4 our winner is the Department of South Dakota, Gene Murphy, our current National Junior Vice Commander and also the Department Commander of South Dakota, for going 20.21 percent over goal. Gene Murphy will accept the award. [Applause.]

Commander GENE MURPHY [Department of South Dakota]. National Commander Chad, National Commander Sally. As Chad has already stated, we did it! [Applause.]

I would like to thank the National staff for their outstanding job. I would like to thank the delegates from South Dakota who have pushed forward and made sure that we made our goal of one-million strong. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Chairman THOMPSON. In Division 3, Department of New Mexico, Joe Benavidez, Department Commander, receives the award by chalking up a percentage of 11.92 percent over goal. Department Adjutant Stan Gertie will accept the award. [Applause.]

Department Adjutant STAN GERTIE [Department of New Mexico]. I would just like to say a word for our Immediate Past Department Commander. He was unable to be here to accept this award due to the fact he had some illness in his family.

I want to pay a tribute to our members that worked. No one man gets all this done by himself. He has to have the support, and so forth, of his members. And I also want to thank him for that.

The other thing I would like to say, we held a seminar on membership. We called all of our membership chairmen from over the state from the different Chapters. And I want to pay honor to one of your National Staff, National Commander, none other than John Charlton. He came out to our seminar and he gave us some very valuable pointers on how to get members, and so forth, and we appreciate that very much.

We are going to have another seminar the 24th of August. We would like to have him there again. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman THOMPSON. In Division 2, the Department of Kentucky, Wiley Willis, Department Commander, exceeded the quota by 24.96 percent. Department Commander Sam Booher will accept the award. [Applause.]

In Division 1, the membership award goes to the Department of Massachusetts, Reverend Carl E. Bergstrom was the Department

Commander, with a showing of 8.52 over the goal. Commander Mike Riley will accept the award. [Applause.]

Commander **Mike Riley** [Department of Massachusetts]. Commander Chad, Commander Sally, Reverend Father, fellow delegates. On behalf of the Department of Massachusetts, I want to thank each and every recruiter and a special thanks to our leader last year, Reverend Carl Bergstrom, who gave us this award. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman **Thompson**. This year, the prestigious General Jonathan M. Wainwright Award for the Department with the greatest numerical increase in membership goes to the Department of Massachusetts with a gain of 4,008 members. Commander Mike Riley will accept the award. [Applause.]

Our next and final membership award is the Robert S. Marx Award for the Department with the largest percentage increase in membership, and it goes to the Department of Maine for increasing their membership by 20 percent. The award will be accepted by Byron Adams, Department Commander. [Applause.]

Department Commander **Byron Adams**. [Department of Maine]. It's with great honor I accept this for the State of Maine. It was a team effort starting from the individual Chapter member through the Department with our finest NSOs and our National Junior, Steve Gaudette. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman **Thompson**. Thank you. That concludes our Membership Awards and I will turn it back over to Commander Colley.

Commander **Colley**. Thank you, Commander Paul Thompson.

I am truly sincere when I say that we appreciate the work and you should appreciate the work that our National organization has done, and with Paul being the Chairman of our Membership and Voluntary Services Committee, he had a tremendous part over this entire three-year period.

At this point in our celebration, I would like to recognize Jerry Montone, Department of Florida Commander, for a moment.

Department Commander **Jerry Montone** [Department of Florida]. Commander Colley, Auxiliary Commander, and the National Staff.

It gives me a great honor to be here today to represent the Department of Florida inasmuch as we have reached our goal prior to December 31, and also it's a great honor because our Auxiliary has exceeded 10,000 members. [Applause.]

To show our appreciation of this gala affair we are here together for, I would like to present to you the delegation from Florida at this time.

[The delegation from the Department of Florida paraded past to the tune "When the Saints Come Marching In."]

Commander **Montone**. I would just like to say that the State of Florida is very happy to be part of this gala event. I would like to state that Florida is after California and New York in membership.

Commander **Colley**. Ladies and gentlemen, we appreciate very much the added attraction of the Florida delegation en masse.

Now, I would like you, for just one brief moment, very seriously, if you have a camera, would you please put it in your purse or put your cover over it. What you are about to see now, we should not have any flash pictures, so please put your cameras away right now. I'm serious, very serious about this. In order for us to get the full effect of what you are about to see, please remain seated and do not take any flash pictures.

If you think this was great, let me tell you, you ain't seen nothing yet.

[A special light extrevaganza was presented.] [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. I told you you hadn't seen anything yet.

From the Floor. You were right there. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. If we can bring the house lights back up, we just have a few more matters of business and then we will be in recess.

The Adjutant will now read the names of the Convention Committee Advisors that I have appointed and who have received approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting.

Adjutant **Adams**. The Convention Committee Advisors are: Department of Credentials, Boniface R. Maile and John P. Charlton.

General Resolutions, Richard F. Schultz.

Legislation, Stuart J. Cody, John J. Heilman, and Stephen L. Edmiston.

Veterans' Rights, Charles A. Thompson, Jr.

Constitution and Bylaws, Joseph R. Harold and Thomas G. Dehne.

Finance and Dues, John W. Peluse and Charles Cryder.

National Security and Americanism, Marion E. Shomake.

Employment, Gregory C. Reed and Ronald W. Drach.

Medical Services, Norman B. Hartnett.

Membership and Volunteer Services, Paul L. Thompson and Gregory M. Jackson.

Nomination of National Officers, William O. Cooper.

Commander **Colley**. Ladies and gentleman, if you will please rise, I will ask the Chaplain to lead us in closing prayer.

Chaplain **Devine**. Let us pray.

Father, we are grateful that we may share in one another's successes. May we be there in support of those of our brother and sisters when they falter and even fail. We acknowledge that all success comes from You, Lord, and we thank You for it.

And may Your peace which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in awareness and love of You, Father.

And now, unto the eternal and all-wise creator of the universe and preserver of our nation be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Commander **Colley**. This Convention is in recess until 10:00 tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m.]

MONDAY MORNING SESSION

July 22, 1985

The Monday morning session of the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, July

22, 1985, and was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commander Chad Colley.

Commander COLLEY. This Convention will come to order. This Convention will come to order.

In opening the first business session of the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, it is fitting and proper that we render respect due the flag.

[Salute to flag.]

[Pledge of Allegiance was given.]

Commander COLLEY. Please remain standing while we have the prayer by our National Chaplain, Father Devine.

Chaplain Father PATRICK DEVINE. Let us pray.

Almighty ever living God, it is You we praise and thank for our nation's years of life and growth. It is to Your word we owe the founding fathers' vision of liberty and justice for all. Make this our vision and our constant goal. Out of many nations, many people, you have made us one, though we are not yet one in our hearts and deeds.

May Your spirit heal all of our divisions and disunity. Help us to respect and prize and share with full acceptance the rich, various and different gifts of our great people, so that we may work together for a common good.

Bless, oh Lord, this gathering of Disabled American Veterans here today, that in serving our worthy veterans we may accomplish your good and holy purpose. Amen.

Commander COLLEY. In order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. The delegate must state his name, chapter number and the state he represents.

Now, I would like to call on the Chairman of the Credentials Committee for the initial report, Dennis Guernsey.

DENNIS GUERNSEY [Chairman of the Credentials Committee]. Comrade Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committe on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on July 22, 1985, by the advisors Boniface R. Maile and John P. Charlton. The first order of business was election of a Credentials Committee Chairman. Dennis Guernsey was nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, Dennis Guernsey was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a Secretary. Larry Polzin was nominated and elected as Secretary.

The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Fortress Room here in the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Roll Call showed 1,510 delegates and 47 alternates present.

This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of registration 4:00 on July 21, 1985.

At the present time we have 581 chapters, 25 departments, 24 national officers, 10 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,510 delegates and 47 alternates, for a total vote of 9,705.

This completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

Commander COLLEY. Thank you.

The first order of business of this convention is the adoption of the rules. Printed copies of the rules have been furnished to each registered delegate. The Chair will now entertain a motion for the adoption of the rules.

Mike Two.

Mr. Ed James. Comrade Commander, Ed James, delegate from Chapter 6, South Bend, Indiana, the home of the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. [Applause.] We would like to make a motion that we adopt the rules of this convention, that we all have them in our possession.

Past National Commander Stan Pealer. Comrade Commander.

Commander Colley. Mike One.

Past Commander Pealer. Stan Pealer, Past National Commander, seconds the motion.

Commander Colley. We have a motion and second to adopt the rules. All those in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. There are none. Passed and so ordered.

The National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting approved the following resolution on DAV policy and recommends its adoption by the convention. The resolution is as follows:

> The Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions the following:
>
> 1. High quality hospital and medical care administered by the Veterans Administration for veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated by service in America's armed forces.
> 2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.
> 3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.
> 4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.
> 5. Adequate compensation to the widows and survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under the laws administered by the Veterans Administration.
>
> It therefore follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for other than wartime, service-connected disability. We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.
>
> While our duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, his widow and survivors, we shall, within the limits of our resources, assist others in filing, perfecting and prosecuting their claims for benefits.
>
> Since this represents the principle upon which our organization was founded and since it is as sound at this time as it was in 1920, we hereby reaffirm this principle as the policy for the Disabled American Veterans.

The Chair will entertain a motion for the adoption of the Policy Statement.

Mike One.

Past Commander Pealer. Commander, Stan Pealer, Past National Commander. Move that we adopt the policy just read.

Commander Colley. Mike Two.

Don Pouliot [Senior Vice Commander, California]. Don Pouliot, Senior Vice, California, seconds the motion.

Commander Colley. We have a motion and a second to adopt the Policy Statement. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

[The above-mentioned Resolution No. 001, "Statement of Policy," follows:]

RESOLUTION No. 001

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS—STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Disabled American veterans was founded on the principle that is nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions:

(1) Higher quality hospital and medical care administered by the Veterans Administration for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's Armed Forces.

(2) Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilities.

(3) Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.

(4) Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.

(5) Adequate compensation to the widows and survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under laws administered by the Veterans Administration.

It therefore follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for dependents and survivors which is based upon other than wartime service-connected disability. We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

While our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, his widow and survivors, we shall within the limits of our resources assist others in filing, perfecting and prosecuting their claims for benefits. Since this represents the principle upon which our organization was founded and since it is as sound at this time as it was in 1920, we hereby reaffirm this principle as the policy for the Disabled American Veterans.

During the past year I have come to an even deeper appreciation of what the DAV's friends in Congress really mean to all of us. One very good friend of the DAV and all of America's disabled veterans has been Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt of Arkansas.

Congressman Hammerschmidt is a veteran of the Second World War, having served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps' 3rd Combat Cargo Group. His military decorations include the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross with three battle stars. He is still serving his country as a member of the Air Force Reserves.

Congressman Hammerschmidt is the Chairman of the Board of Hammerschmidt Lumber Company and serves on the board of directors of a federal savings and loan association. He is also Chairman of the Arkansas Republican State Central Committee. But disabled veterans nationwide are more familiar with, and grateful for, Congressman Hammerschmidt's role as ranking minority member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. He was extremely influential in beating down the proposal to tax our benefits.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I introduce *my* congressman. Let's give a rousing welcome to the champion of veterans' rights, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt. [Rising applause.]

Congressman **JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT**. Mr. Commander, distinguished officers and delegates to this 64th National Convention of Disabled American Veterans, Administrator Harry Walters, ladies and gentlemen.

You know, one of my most pleasant Congressional activities is to come to a National Convention of the DAV, for at these meetings we review what has recently occurred legislatively in the field of veterans' affairs, we renew old friendships and we pledge anew to do that which is right and proper for the veterans of this nation and their dependents. And most importantly, we annually renew a pledge towards the hallmark of the DAV, which is that our nation's first and foremost objective is to give the highest priority to that select group of individuals who have been disabled in the service of their country. Insofar as I am concerned, and I believe I can speak for the entire Congress, that pledge will be honored, will be supreme, and will guide the Congress in all that it does.

The DAV deserves many plaudits today. Its legislative program has been carefully crafted, its spokesmen on Capitol Hill in Washington are excellent. Dale Adams, Butch Joeckel, Rick Heilman, Dave Gorman, Ron Drack, Steven Edmiston, and all the others serve you extremely well and the Congress looks to them for advice and counsel.

The DAV is a larger sense also deserves other plaudits. Your corps of National Service Officers, the vast majority of whom are seriously disabled Vietnam veterans, are second to none in their ability and in their dedication. The Director, Art Wilson, is a fountain of knowledge in veterans' affairs.

The voice of the DAV in Washington is vibrant, strong and resonent. You stick to your singleness of purpose that the service-connected come first and you usually achieve your objectives. You do it with facts, with persuasion, and with much persistence. I congratulate you on your efforts and on your accomplishments.

The DAV deserves at least two other particular commendations. You now have more than one million members, which is a phenomenal achievement, considering your membership eligibility rules. How very proud you have a right to be. This great strength speaks loudly throughout the land. It commands a voice that ought to be and will be heard, of that you can be sure.

On a more personal note, let me congratulate you on another matter of great personal pride to the citizens of Arkansas. You had the good sense and great wisdom to place in your highest office one of our native sons. Chad Colley is not just our friend, he is an inspirational leader who reminds us daily of what the DAV is all about, what our veterans programs are all about, and what our country is all about.

You will understand, then, my own pride in being his Congressman. He is the best there is and I congratulate each of you for electing him to the position honored as the National Commander of the DAV. [Applause.]

Well, legislative dilemmas abound these days. I can tell you that the Congress needs you, needs your ideas and your ideals. By your example you give Congress an impetus to excel. By your faith in the nation, you give us inspiration to enact just laws and to seek more effective solutions to national problems. It's no secret that many such problems exist today, particularly with respect to high federal deficits and huge budgets. The Veterans Administration budget is caught up in this difficulty. It will not go away.

The House and Senate budget committee conferees continue to try to resolve differences in the manner in which major national fiscal policies are addressed. They involve almost every fabric of society. The proper amount of money to operate the VA in fiscal years 1986, 1987, 1988 is one of these issues still to be decided.

The 1986 House budget includes money for a compensation and pension cost of living increase of 4.1 percent. It provides that the medical program will operate just as it did this fiscal year. However, it also calls upon the House Veterans Committee to find $300 million in savings.

The Senate budget goes further. It would have no COLA for anyone, including Social Security recipients. It would increase fees on GI loans, establish a hospitalization means test for certain nonservice-connected veterans, and require insurance companies to reimburse the Veterans Administration for nonservice-connected hospitalization.

You need to know what the House and Senate positions are several hundred million dollars apart and our problem is to reconcile the difference while hopefully doing no harm to good veterans programs. This presents a great challenge and the answers are not easy, but two answers are not difficult for me at all. Very simply they are this: If anyone gets a COLA, it's going to be service-connected disabled veterans. [Applause.] You rightly will be at the head of the list and the $300 million is not going to come from the service-connected, either. [Applause.]

In addition, I don't want to see the fee on GI loans increased. However, as to this item alone, if the fee is increased by just 1 percent, it brings $153 million into the treasury, and so the Senate at least thinks it to be a viable option for the conferees to consider.

Third-party reimbursement by insurance companies coupled with a realistic, easy to manage limited means test might be a possibility for a House-Senate compromise. One such plan would bring in over $1 billion in three years. Another would bring in even more. If to achieve a budget that will really attack our high federal deficit we must go this route, I am certain that Congress will assure that service-connected veterans will be completely protected, that pensioners will be protected, ex-POWs will be protected, the aged needy will be protected, and quality of care will be preserved for all. Moreover, the leadership of the DAV would be fully consulted as these proposals are considered. Its advice and counsel will be invaluable.

Let me make clear that no one knows at this time how the budget will be worked out. The thoughts I have expressed are only in the realm of things to be possibly considered. But we must be realistic in the veterans' world. The veterans' world cannot be in a national vacuum and we wouldn't want it to be. If that happened, we might find ourselves in a position of having to accept ill-advised proposals with little knowledge of their consequences.

I earlier mentioned consultation with your leaders. Let me dwell on that for a moment. It works for the good of all of us and it works well. I mentioned where I stand with respect to COLAs for service-connected veterans. As this matter evolved I consulted with Commander Colley at a Congressional hearing as to what would be the position of the DAV if all COLAs, including Social Security, were proposed to be frozen for one year.

He didn't hesitate to answer. He said that DAV members had responded before to patriotic calls and would bite that bullet by immediately agreeing to give up COLAs given the fact that everyone else would be treated the same way. [Applause.]

Chad's answer was in the great tradition of the DAV and everyone in that crowded hearing room that day had reason to be terribly proud that their organization had no difficulty putting nation above self. It was DAV at its finest.

And there was another time of excellent consultation. It was when the DAV learned that some career economists at the Treasury Department were giving serious consideration to urging the President, as part of his tax reform package, to ask the Congress to pass a law taxing veterans' compensation. Just let me say to you that this kind of proposal was not made by mean spirited people. It was made by people who had read a lot of books and heard a lot of theories. They didn't understand the historic position of our citizenry and they certainly didn't understand the DAV.

The proposal to tax compensation rightfully never saw the light of a single legislative day. The DAV led a campaign against it. They left no stone unturned. Our offices were in daily contact. The Congress was thoroughly alerted. Thousands of your members wrote letters of protests. You were justifiably outraged that any serious thought could be given to such an idea.

Just let me tell you that I have every reason to believe that Secretary Jim Baker at Treasury never gave the idea any credence nor did the President of the United States.

Harry Walters campaigned against it [applause] and Sonny Montgomery campaign against it and so did the entire House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. [Applause.]

So the idea died and was never even presented to the Congress. The DAV rose to its full height during this time of controversy. It flexed its good muscles, it showed its strength, it did its job and you can be proud, each of you, that you were part of this great effort.

The DAV Auxiliary deserves a share of the credit, too, and so do many other individuals and organizations, but the Auxiliary was particularly effective in its letter-writing and its telephone calls. Congress listens when the ladies speak, for their voice is a loving one and a caring one and also a very convincing one.

The Auxiliary deserves another credit together with the DAV membership. It lends a tremendous hand to the VA medical program by its volunteer activities. I have seen that activity in visits to scores of VA hospitals and its success is almost indescribable. The VA simply couldn't do its job without it and I congratulate all of you for this great national effort of compassion and love of neighbor and comrade.

Now, let me conclude by leaving you with one final thought. The Congress is involved with doing the nation's will in every field of endeavor. You are involved in many of these fields and you have a time-honored tradition of contributing to the solving of problems associated with them. I know that you will continue with those contributions. To do our job properly, the Congress needs your assistance, your wisdom, and, yes, too, your courage. That it will receive all of this is a foregone conclusion.

I believe this to a moral certainty, for I walked side by side with the DAV on many issues and I know your devotion to the veterans cause and indeed to the cause of this great nation.

Thank you, my friends, for inviting me to be with you. It is always good to be at the National Convention of the DAV and certainly to be with my good friend, Chad Colley. God bless the Disabled Veterans of America. [Rising applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Congressman Hammerschmidt, to say that we appreciate you is so inadequate, but we want you to know that we appreciate additionally the intimate relationship that you have allowed us to develop with our staffers, our organization and the staff of this House Veterans' Affairs Committee and your personal staff. It's very special to us and we are very proud of that, very protective of that, and we just can't say enough about it.

We also appreciate the fact that you were able to come and be with us at our convention.

In my opinion, there is one quality that is absolutely essential in the individual who leads the Veterans Administration. That person must have a realistic understanding of America's debt to its veterans, particularly its disabled veterans.

I believe that this past year shows that Harry Walters—my note here says "is one of the greatest." I can't buy that. I think Harry Walters is the greatest Administrator we have ever had in this position. [Applause.] He fought against the proposed idea of taxing disability compensation as hard as anyone at the DAV did.

Mr. Walters, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your steadfastness in backing this nation's disabled veterans at such a critical time in our nation's history. [Applause.]

A graduate of West Point, Mr. Walters served as an army infantry officer from 1959 to 1962, including tours in Laos and Thailand. He held a variety of high-ranking management positions in industry before President Reagan appointed him Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

When he was subsequently named to head the VA, he said that he saw himself as an advocate for America's veterans. And that is exactly the way I see him, too. And that's what he has proven himself to be.

He has worked hard on behalf of America's veterans, and I am proud to call him a friend of the DAV and a friend of mine.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Mr. Harry Walters, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. [Rising applause.]

HARRY N. WALTERS [Administrator of Veterans' Affairs]. Thank you, Commander Colley.

Members of the Disabled American Veterans, members of the Ladies Auxiliary, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, members of the armed forces, employees of the Veterans Administration, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting me to join you in these proceedings. It is a great honor to be with you again this year for your annual convention. And let's face it, congratulations on making a million. Terrific. [Applause.] When our veteran service organizations are growing, your influence grows and the country is stronger, and I congratulate you very sincerely for that.

I know you will have a successful meeting because you share a common pride of our country and an uncommon willingness to work for your community and to sacrifice for America's ideals.

Yet, I also know you will have a very good time. After being with you at your 63rd National Convention in Washington, I know these conventions can be a lot of fun, especially here. And for those of you who played poker with Gabby Hartnett, I'm sorry. [Laughter.] I had breakfast with Gabby this morning. He didn't tell me who he played with; he just simply said he was making a donation to the memorial fund on your behalf. [Laughter.]

But you and I are in the midst of Dixieland Jazz, terrific Cajun food, fabulous entertainment, intriguing French architecture and exciting history. Your convention should be something special because the Disabled American Veterans are something special.

As the veterans advocate in government, I am deeply aware that this nation owes you a special debt. And I am grateful for the help of friends like your National Commander, Chad Colley, your former National Commander, Dennis Joyner, and your former National Commander Galian, your National Service Officers, your National Adjutant, your DAV Auxiliary, because they assist me immensely in the conduct of the nation's veterans' affairs.

I am proud to be your advocate and my VA associates join me in my strong sense of appreciation for your cooperation and pleasant relations. [Applause.]

We have accomplished a great deal the last few years as we worked together to help assure delivery of high-quality health care and benefits to America's veterans. Oh, no, we haven't always done everything right, nor will we ever do everything right, but we will continue to improve with your advice and your help.

The Veterans Administration is the child of the veteran service organizations, but remember, parents instruct and they guide. They support, they cajole and they discipline their children to achieve the results they seek. They do not succeed by beating their own child to death. [Applause.]

Now, I believe that the open and the honest communications we have had during these last three years, the healthy dialogue on key issues have caused both policy and lawmakers alike to view veterans as a potent force which is immensely important in Washington and good for the country.

Never forget that America is No. 1 thanks to our veterans, or as Dr. Ernie Burgess, the father of the Seattle Foot out in Washington said when he received the 1985 Olin Teague award, he modified our slogan when he said "America is, thanks to our veterans." [Applause.]

Being a veteran encompasses many things, service to country, a sense of duty and obligation, loyalty to our flag, possessing both courage and honor, the virtues that indeed made this country great. And to veterans, the vision of the founding fathers is still a vital force. You believe in enlarging the meaning of freedom and giving it new expresions. Knowing freedom is hard won and can be preserved only by continuous effort, you are America's watchmen on the wall.

Now, as DAV members you have certain goals and intentions regarding improvement of our programs and services. As individuals, each of you has an opinion about what the VA is doing and what it should be doing. I respect your opinions. I respect your intentions and your goals. I encourage your suggestions because I want to see new ideas and I want to see new procedures pumped into our system of benefits and health care.

Veterans and their dependents and their survivors need your help and our agency needs your help. We need your help to meet the challenges that change with the times.

Let me give you a recent example of how the VA and the service organizations work together with pretty great success.

As most of you know, the numbers crunchers were looking at every program in an attempt to accomplish their task. The initial draft of the tax simplification proposal that John Paul just talked about included a provision to tax veterans' disability compensation. Like you, I was appalled. So the service organizations, the VA, the Department of Defense and certain key members of the Congress, the most key one being right here, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt [applause], joined together to educate those who would influence this decision. We made a formidable team and we got our message across to most of Washington's decision-makers.

Now, let it be clear. I never doubted that President Ronald Reagan would come out squarely on the side of veterans when faced with a decision because he always has. But we wanted to make sure that those around him understood that such a provision was unfair and should not be considerd.

Working together, the service organizations, the VA and the DOD and the Congress got a lot of people's attention and we got them educated in the process, even to the point where David Stockman, who has not always been on our side, solidly supported us. We finally got him educated just before he resigned. [Laughter and applause.]

Well, the President did not disappoint us. In fact, he made a specific point in outlining the tax proposal on national television. You remember. He said that veterans' disability compensation would not be taxed. Veterans have already paid their dues. [Applause.]

This is just one example of how we have been successful through teamwork. In this regard I would like to pause just for a moment to acknowledge your leaders and your staff and salute them for the magnificent job they are doing for all of us. And specifically I would like to mention a person here this morning that I didn't know was behind the scenes the whole time making things work, the silent man of the DAV, and I'm going to pull your cover on you, Dale, and say, Dale Adams, thank you for your help, personally. [Applause.]

One of the most significant elements in solving challenges in the future will be the ability to arm ourselves with the facts. We can work with facts, but rumors and innuendos and feelings can cause great confusion and they can lead to bitter disappointment and sometimes even disaster.

Unfortunately, getting the facts out is a lot easier said than done, especially in Washington where so many individuals' agendas are being worked on and all at the same time. Take the budget, for example. In addition to the President's budget submission, which is down in black and white, there are numerous alternative solutions also under examination. Some cut the VA, some add to the the budget we submitted. The point is there are so many variations, even the staffers on Capitol Hill can't keep track of them all. Yet, news of the budget is painfully consistent. It is always bleak. Pessimistic rumors abound and veterans and VA employees grow more concerened. We need to present the facts.

Remember when a local newspaper printed an expose on the cardiac surgery unit in one of our Florida hospitals? It was in Miami. The paper lacked the facts. But that didn't seem to matter. Nor did it matter when a complete investigation was conducted by the Veterans Administration or when the House held hearings, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the experts supported our VA program. None of this mattered to that paper but it should have. It should have mattered. Because of the alarm the paper caused, cardiac surgery was temporarily terminated in Miami and veterans were needlessly upset. But none of this mattered to that newspaper. It never relented. And when the House Veterans' Affairs Sub-Committee hearings didn't share its conclusions, the paper called the hearings a sham.

The real sham was the paper's scare story. And a real tragedy may be written about some time in the future when some veteran who needs heart surgey refuses to come to the VA for care because he is afraid. I hope such a tragic thing never happens again, but chances are it will. Chances are some veteran will be afraid to come to us for care and that will be worse than a sham. That, indeed, will be a shame.

It does veterans a great disservice to undermine their confidence with scare stories that ignore the facts. And I want you to help me do something about it. I want you to help me get out the truth. I want you to help me find a better way to relate to this nation's veterans, and I know that you have already begun to do that already in your national campaign through the national news media to set the record straight on the Veterans Administration.

Well, along with asking our agency to continue seeking new and better ways to treat patients, I want better communications with people that we serve. That's very important. I want us to improve our methods of administering benefits and upgrade our services and I want us to be more efficient in all of our functions and in all of our operations. I want us constantly striving to expand the opportunities and helping to fulfill the expectations and the potential of that special segment of the American populace that we are privileged to serve. I want us to continue being the finest, serving America's finest. So I will need your help.

I know you are busy—Anybody asleep? [Laughter.] It's nice to know that you are paying attention.

I know you are busy. I know you are busy planning activities, working on legislation and training your people. Well, we are keeping busy, too, busy seeking better methods, better performance and better results, and we intend to stay busy for as far ahead as any of us can see. And we pray there will be no more wars, that there will be no new war veterans, no more young men and women returning home with the injuries and the problems and the disabilities so many of you are familiar with. [Applause.]

But even if there are no more wars, we will still stay busy caring for a veteran population that is reaching a time in life when it will need medical assistance as never before. To meet this challenge we are developing a plan for modernizing all of our VA operations and we will be considering various efficiency alternatives as we develop our modernization plan.

We are pursuing an agencywide data processing and telecommunications modernization goal as a major element of our management goal which will provide better service to veterans through the increased use of modern technologies. The VA is not too far from where Sears & Roebuck was 25 years ago.

If you had a credit card in Miami, it didn't necessarily work in San Francisco, because you had to have a paper trail following your credit card in order to get you the service in different cities.

Now, we're better than that, but we have a long way to go and we intend to put a lot of emphasis on this goal so that we can talk to you quicker and more efficiently and give you better advice and counsel. [Applause.]

We are still building on the missions and goals which the department heads and I established shortly after I joined the VA and we are not throwing them out the window. You can be sure that VA activity and our strong commitment to the needs of veterans will continue undiminished. Of course, our budget submission reflects the President's emphasis on reducing the Federal deficit. We always like more money for our agency's activity in the budget request. I think we have fared very well compared to other departments of government.

Let me pause for a moment because I have been married for 23 years. She is a lovely lady and I love her very much. One thing in common over those 23 years is that every year she submits to me a plan and every year I submit to her my budget, and my budget has yet to meet her plan. [Laughter.] So let the first one out there throw the first stone for those of you that don't live that way. [Laughter and applause.]

The fact of the matter is, there will always be more needs for our veterans in total than our country will be able to supply in total, so the budget has never met all the needs of what the VA needs. Yet, my wife and I have had a lovely relationship; we are very happy. I know that your relationships with your spouses are happy and I know the same situations exist with you. The VA will succeed in its mission regardless of the budget. [Applause.]

At a time when other government activities are being scaled back, it is indeed satisfying to know that our modern dynamic health-care system is approaching a new highest ever level of operation. At a time when intense competition is heightening interinstitutional rivalries, it is comforting to know we have a superb relationship between Federal and private health-care providers in this country. We continue to have strong public support and the cooperation of other health-care providers because we are willing to work within the community for common goals. The fact that we are accomplishing our mission is probably the best assurance that we will continue to receive the resources we need.

Now, I want you to know that I am not willing to consolidate VA facilities across this country, or functions, unless such consolidation is warranted, and by warranted I mean that it is in the best interests of veterans. We will never neglect our responsibilities, but we must anticipate changing requirements and design effective programs to meet both our current and our future needs. Be assured the VA is determined to provide superior service, whatever the criteria. Veterans deserve the best because you have already given your best.

As a private citizen as well as a public official, I appreciate this brief opportunity to recognize the great service you have given and continue to give to your country. Your needs will never be forgotten. The American people will always remember the price you paid for the liberty and the opportunities we enjoy, and those who made that greatest sacrifice will always remain the most special in our memories.

I must share with you that I have not made a speech since I have been at the VA without reminding you of what the motto of the VA is for the last two and a half years. And I must share with you some people have called a little bit corny for this motto, some people have called me trite, but no one has called me stupid, because it's true: America is No. 1, thanks to our veterans.

God bless you and God bless America. [Rising applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Mr. Walters, as the starting fullback for the last undefeated West Point football team, as a dynamic leader in industry and in the government, I want you to know you have had lost of successes, but if there is one thing that I could point to you and say, that would probably have more impact than anything that you have done, it will be the fact that you have changed the perception of how Veterans Administration employees think of themselves, the agency and the mission of the Veterans Administration, and you have changed the perception of how disabled veterans and veterans in general perceive the VA.

The very first time I heard you talk you changed my attitude completely in that regard and I just don't let anybody bad-mouth the VA around me anymore, and I appreciate that very much. [Applause.]

At this point, I would like to hold Congressman Hammerschmidt and Administrator Walters just a little longer on this stage.

As everyone in this room knows, in the past year we have seen one of the most serious threats that has ever been mounted against your benefits as a disabled veteran. I am speaking of the proposal to tax compensation. This would have been the first time in America's history that these benefits would have been subject to taxation and, ironically, the tax would have fallen most heavily on those who had given the most for America's freedom, those with the most severe disabilities.

In the process of fighting this recommendation, the leaders of the major veterans organizations got together and formed a united front. As one of the leaders of those organizations put it, if we lose this one, we might as well close up the shop. And he was right. A loss on this single issue would have been a signal to the enemies of veterans programs, a signal to attack at will.

Two of the influential leaders who were invaluable in this great victory are with us today and I want to recognize both of them. Since one of them is from my home state, I will be totally unbiased about this thing and read his plaque first. [Laughter.]

John Paul, if you will come up, please, sir. The plaque is inscribed as follows:

> We cannot go back on America's obligation to compensate our disabled veterans. Any proposal for taxation of veterans' disability compensation would have a strong opposition in the Congress. I would oppose it in my capacity as ranking minority member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. John Paul Hammerschmidt, to the President of the United States on January 25, 1985.

[Applause.]

The answer:

> Veterans' disability payments will remain totally exempt from federal taxation. These American veterans have already paid their dues. The President of the United States and the nation, on May 29, 1985.

And the bottom of the plaque:

> To John Paul Hammerschmidt, ranking minority member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, in grateful appreciation for his outstanding advocacy on behalf of present and future generations of America's wartime disabled veteran population. Presented this 21st day of July in the year of our Lord 1985. Signed by Denvel D. Adams. National Adjutant and Chad Colley, National Commander.

[Applause.]

The second plaque goes to a man who has also proven his dedication in very concrete ways to serving America's disabled veterans. And, as I have pointed out, I am proud to count him a close, personal friend.

Mr. Walters, the top of the plaque is inscribed:

> On the Treasury Department's proposal to tax veterans' disability compensation, I must express grave concern and must counsel against the proposal. Harry Walters, to the President of the United States on May 14, 1985.

Again, the President's answer:

> Veterans disability payments will remain totally exempt from federal taxation. These American veterans have already paid their dues.

His answer. [Applause.]

At the bottom:

> Inscribed to Harry Walters, Administration of Veterans' Affairs, in grateful appreciation for his outstanding advocacy on behalf of present and future generations of America's wartime disabled veteran population. Presented this date. Signed Denvel D. Adams, National Adjutant, and Chad Colley, National Commander.

[Applause.]

FROM THE FLOOR. You ain't seen nothing yet. [Laughter.]

Commander COLLEY. Plaques similar to these will be presented to other national leaders whose assistance was critical in this battle. But, for now, would you please give these two gentlemen, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt and VA Administrator Harry Walters, the standing ovation they have earned for their help in defeating an unjust tax on your VA benefit check. [Standing ovation.]

Now, may I introduce one of the key spokes in our wheel in this organization, your personal friend, Charles—we call him Butch—Joeckel, Jr., the National Director of Services, for his report. [Applause.]

Charles E. Joeckel, Jr. [National Director of Services]. Thank you, Chad.

National Commander, National Officers, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs Harry Walters, Congressman Hammerschmidt, and delegates to this great convention.

During the past year we have seen an important idea proved true time and again, that is there is no substitute for success. Today, I am pleased to report a string of DAV successes that we have accomplished during the past 12 months. And I am obligated, as the Director of Services, to look at the future of disabled veterans as well, a future that may bear no relationship to the successes we have enjoyed this year.

Because of time constraints and the special celebrations that we had yesterday, my report this year will also embody the reports of the National Service, Employment and Legislative Directors.

The DAV year just ended has once again demonstrated that we are an organization firmly anchored in service to our fellow disabled veterans and their families. Our nationwide network of national service officers conducted more than 230,000 interviews and submitted over 193,000 new claims on your behalf, NSOs have appeared before the adjudication board 207,000 times and as a result, over $827 million in annual and retroactive monetary benefits have been brought to DAV members and their families nationwide. [Applause.]

All of us know that at the heart of the DAV service program are our National Service Officers. Each year we see graphic proof that these men and women are not just willing but eager to represent you. This year I offer but one of the many examples of the fine work that they do. For example, in New York State the DAV reviewed more than 21,000 files alone and represented more than 15,000 claims. Along the way they have recruited 1,500 new DAV members just in New York alone. That's a commendable record. [Applause.] Speaking of which, our National Service Officers nationwide recruited more than 24,000 members to the DAV.

Last year I reported that we were embarking on two new programs. Our development of a structured training program for NSOs is well in progress. The training program will make use of the latest advances and modern teaching methods, medical information and idea materials. We expect this program to see the standard of the training of individuals in the area of veterans' benefits and services nationwide.

Another plan that has also come to fruition is the installation of a nationwide network of computers for our National Service Officer program. For the first time in our history DAV National Service Officers will be fully automated and have the capability to perform a wide variety of sophisticated applications.

Last year we completed another pilot project in Detroit, this one designed to assist disabled veterans receive employment. We are now on the eve of expanding that program throughout the nation. Again, we have identified a need and we have set out to meet it. Too many veterans remain unemployed in this nation. Many of them don't have the opportunity or the information they need to participate in the job market. We intend to give them that opportunity during the next year.

Our ability to keep our members informed has also improved over the last year and it's going to get better. We have completed a reorganization and relocation of our communications staff to Washington, D.C. Our efforts in this area focus on our desire to keep our members up to date on the developments that affect their lives. In the next two months we will launch a DAV news service designed to fill the information gaps for members and chapters and departments. This service will be sent to all DAV chapters and departments with the intent that the contents be reproduced in their local publications.

It's important to note that these initiatives we've taken, whether it's in service, employment or in legislative or communications, contribute to our organization's overall effort. It's a coordinated effort on your behalf.

As many of you know, one of the most important tests of our effectiveness each year comes from Capitol Hill. It is there that ultimately the real measure of America's commitments to its veterans is made. During the fall of last year and thus far into 1985 we have seen the enactment of major veterans legislation. Our staff in Washington has appeared before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees and other committees of Congress on more than 30 separate occasions and the subject matter of this testimony has covered virtually every benefit and service provided to our nation's veterans.

Since our National Convention last year we have seen the enactment of a cost of living adjustment, expansion of the VA's role in alcohol abuse treatment, post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, and rehabilitation and geriatric care for disabled veterans. We have seen the Congress enact legislation to deal with veterans who were exposed to radiation and Agent Orange. These recently enacted laws represent reasonable and logical approaches to the needs of the nation's disabled veterans.

At this point, Commander Colley, with your permission, I would like to have our National Staff in Washington, D.C., to please stand and take a bow for their concerted efforts on our behalf. [Applause.]

I would also like to thank Assistant National Adjutant Dick Wilson for his assistance in establishing a communciations office in Washington, as well as the Assistant Adjutant Bob Lenham for his assistance in special projects that overlap with the various service and legislative employment programs, as well as Assistant National Adjutant Tom Dehne for his efforts in terms of our computerized network for our National Service Officers. [Applause.]

While we have enjoyed great success in our various service and legislative programs last year, there still exists a serious threat to our fundamental national commitment to veterans. Our opponents have decided, it seems, that they are not going to beat us with a frontal attack so they decided to make an end run. Instead of seeking outright elimination of veterans programs and services, they have decided there are other ways to kill programs.

For example, to establish a means test on health care for disabled veterans, to attach a user's fee in order to kill what is already a good loan guarantee program, and during the whole process they toss around phantom figures for third-party reimbursement, phantom figures of making savings on the backs of disabled veterans. These plans are designed to distract everyone's attention while a budget is hopefully slipped through that would devastate our VA health-care program.

My report to you this year really is an assessment of our nation's efforts to discharge its responsibilities to disabled veterans. Abraham Lincoln, better than anyone, articulated the promise that America has always had for its disabled veterans: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan."

We are proud and excited because in the past year we've battled and beat all the forces that have tried to rewrite Lincoln's phrase. Some in Congress and the administration have waged an all-out war on our national sense of duty and they have served notice that the war is going to get a lot tougher before it's over.

As you've read in our magazine last month, the DAV's response to this all-out war has been a variety of responses and initiatives. We've done a lot of things differently this year because we've seen a lot of different schemes launched against our programs and services. On Capitol Hill we faced our opponents who professed more of a moral commitment to an accountant's ledger than to America's veterans.

We've watched the traditional enemies of veterans progress from simple stalling tactics to out-right lying about the correct figures. We've listened as men like Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming descirbe us as participants in, and I quote, a pathetic process. We watched as efforts were made to restore the proposed VA budget to minimum levels in the Senate and the response to that was an effort as mean-spirited and loud an effort at senatorial character assassination as we have ever seen in that body.

We heard our military men and women described as people more interested in the security of their pension checks than in the national security of our nation. We listened as administration officials looked over at our National Commander and asked, "What's so special about disabled veterans?"

Well, the man who asked Chad Colley that question is on his way out, if he is not gone already. [Applause.] David Stockman is gone, too. [Cheers and applause.] And as we approach elections, perhaps the voters in Wyoming will show the good Senator the door as well. [Applause.]

Now, here is a man who provides us with a particularly interesting example of Congressional disdain to veterans. The Senator from Wyoming likes to continually recall that he served in the military, but that he never expected anything in return from the VA. He figures, then, that no other veterans need the VA, either. Well, the Senator should know that not all of us are sons of former U.S. Senators, not all of us were born with a silver spoon in our mouth, not all of us came out of the war without a scratch. Some of us spent more time looking down the wrong end of the rifle barrel than looking down at the bottom of a glass at the officers club. [Applause.]

Some of us have left their arms and legs on the battlefield. Some of us will spend the remainder of our lives in pain and darkness. Some of us will never run with our sons and some of us will never see our daughter's first prom dress. Even though we know our families could never pay the kind of medical care and rehabilitation that they would need, we would do it all again if we had to. [Applause.] We would risk our lives and limbs all over again because we believe that gentlemen ranchers from Wyoming have the right to run their cattle in a free land. We believe this nation is too precious to sacrifice one ounce of freedom or one ounce of democracy. And we'd risk it all again secure in the knowledge that more Americans embrace Abraham Lincoln's philosophy than Alan Simpson's rhetoric. [Applause.]

In the meantime, men like Simpson will continue to mislead the public. Be assured that even though David Stockman is gone, hundreds of Stockmans stand ready to replace him. Now we have a new chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. He is an interesting chairman. Frank Murkowski of Alaska writes in his monthly chairman's report that veterans took a most honorable oath when they enlisted and whether they actually participated in armed conflict is, for the purpose of receiving veterans' benefits, secondary to the concept that they were ready to fight. That's what he says.

But he don't vote that way on the floor of the Senate. He votes for a budget that would result in widespread denial of health care for hundreds of thousands of veterans. And perhaps more important, he remains strangely silent when the enemies of the VA rise on the floor of the Senate and spout half-truths, innuendoes and outright lies. No matter what tactics they use, no matter what schemes they hatch, we of the DAV will be equal to the task. [Applause.]

If we are dealing with rhetoric, we will be equal to the task. If we are dealing with unrealistic administration proposals, we will be equal to that task, too. And if they want to mislead the public, we must be ready for that task with all of the resources of a million-member organization. We will continue to remind America of its inherent responsibility to its citizen soldiers, a pact that says we will take care of you. Our job is to see that that contract is upheld and not redefined, diluted or canceled.

Now, more than ever before, we must be equal to the growing effort to change America's contract with its veterans. We are going to do it and we are going to succeed. We will succeed because of a million-member strength. We will succeed because of men like Chad Colley who are willing to give up their home, willing to give up their family to serve in the cause of America's service-connected disabled veterans. [Applause.] We will succeed because of men like Denvel Adams, who has the courage of his convictions and the perseverance to pursue and attain the goals of this organization. [Applause.]

If we are to preserve the benefits and services we have earned, it will really be up to you and up to me and what we are willing to do on behalf of this organizations and ourselves. I believe we will preserve them. Our future is in our hands. Together we can maintain and improve and keep America's commitment to its veterans.

Commander Colley, delegates, this concludes my report to the convention.

[The above-mentioned reports follow:]

REPORT OF AUTHUR H. WILSON, NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR

National Commander Colley, reverend clergy, national officers, distinguished guests, delegates, members and good friends of the DAV:

As your National Service Director, it is a privilege and honor to present to you, the delegates to this 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, the annual report of the National Service Department.

Congratulations, we made it! What an astounding accomplishment—one million members!!. Each and every one of us can be proud of attaining this goal, as it enhances the voice of the DAV not only on Capitol Hill, but throughout the entire nation.

I would like to publicly thank all National Service Officers who actively recruited 23,883 memberships this past year. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to those dedicated Chapter and Department members who have been actively involved in our membership recruitment efforts. We certainly would not have been able to accomplish this significant growth in membership if it were not for a combined and dedicated effort.

Each one of you at this Convention and those unable to attend realize that we have enjoyed another year of positive accomplishments in the National Service Department.

This year, we gather for our Convention at a time when this nation's people are not only standing tall to salute the flag, but also in singing the National Anthem with a renewed assurance and pride.

More and more people in this nation realize what this great organization—the Disabled American Veterans—stands for. With over one million members, the voice of the DAV is now stronger than ever.

However, we cannot afford to rest on our past accomplishments, especially in view of the current mood and direction of the leaders of this nation. In every year that I have been in Washington, D.C, there has been at least one major effort to eliminate or reduce veterans' programs or benefits. Recent actions, such as the proposed taxation of compensation, which the DAV was instrumental in defeating, indicate that there will be no change in these attacks. All of us must remain vigilant, alert and work hard to ensure the maintenance of an adequate program of veterans' benefits. We need to set future goals in membership to include one million life members which will help to ensure the future of veterans' programs.

Although we still have friends on Capitol Hill who are mindful of our government's moral commitment to this nation's veterans, there are still present those individuals who would love nothing better than to dismantle the VA. These are the same individuals who would ignore your personal sacrifices and those of your family. They are insensitive and certainly are unknowledgeable as to the purpose of the VA.

In the face of these constant attacks on our benefits, I want all of you to know how very proud I am of our 258 National Service Officers. These professionals are working hard each and every day on your behalf. They are constantly involved in assisting and representing your interests to ensure that you receive those benefits you are entitled to under federal, state or local laws. They are also involved in a host of other activities all aimed at improving the lives of those they have dedicated themselves to serve.

As has been said again and again, an NSO must be a special type of person to do this job. Almost everyone who comes to us for help has already sought assistance from the government or other organizations and failed to get the help they needed. This makes our job much more difficult because these individuals are dissatisfied and often agitated. Our NSOs have to analyze the problems, develop the evidence and diligently pursue the claim.

NSOs are involved in everything from claim representation to financial assistance. They present claims to the Veterans Administration, the Social Security Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Postal Service and other various government agencies. The quality of service provided by NSOs was never made clearer than in the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the limitation of attorney fees. In its deliberation, the high court praised the free representation provided by NSOs. They were quick to point out that this representation was an important part of the VA's adjudication process.

The final report of this National Convention will contain the 12 month figures of all of our National Service Office activities. However, I would like to highlight some of the more significant accomplishments achieved during the period July 1, 1984, through May 31, 1985.

During that time, 233,084 interviews were conducted and 193,031 new claims submitted on your behalf. NSOs appeared before VA Adjudication Boards 207,506 times. Over $827 million in annual and retroactive monetary benefits were awarded to those we represented.

NSOs successfully represented 1,120 claimants with the Social Security Administration, which resulted in over $14 million awarded to those individuals.

NSOs working at the VA Insurance Centers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and St. Paul, Minnesota successfully represented 709 veterans who sought to have their insurance premiums waived due to total disability. An additional 3,328 veterans represented by the DAV had their waiver of premiums continued. Those NSOs reviewed approximately 5,000 insurance files and appeared before the Veterans Administration on 4,760 occasions in the process.

Our Pentagon staff represented approximately 600 veterans before the Military Boards for Correction and Review of Discharges. Our success before those Boards resulted in monetary benefits totalling over one half million dollars.

Our involvement with the military also extended to representing active duty personnel, as well as veterans before the Physical Evaluation Boards. DAV representation resulted in 173 decisions that granted or continued disability retirement benefits.

The demand for our services and the confidence placed in DAV representation by veterans is once again best measured by recent statistics from the VA's court of last resort, the Board of Veterans Appeals. Their findings indicate that the DAV now represents over 44% of all claims reviewed by that agency. Obviously, this is an impressive statistic, since the other two major veterans' organizations showed a decline in the number of claimants represented, while the DAV showed an increase. Your BVA staff represented 18,945 claimants at the Board during the last 12 months, resulting in 2,965 favorable decisions. This total represents an allowance rate of 16%, which is in excess of the BVA's overall average allowance rate of 13.7%. Once again, a tremendous accomplishment.

NSOs frequently refer extremely complex cases to National Service and Legislative Headquarters for presentation to VA Central Office. Of the cases submitted, 91% were favorably resolved.

I am also pleased to report on the continuing success of our National Field Service Unit Program often described as "rolling supermarkets of service."

The success of this program is, for the most part, due to the dedication and sacrifice made by all National Service Officers, Chapter and Auxiliary members who participate. For this dedication, we are extremely appreciative and wish to thank you for your cooperation and congratulate you for a job well done.

Our fleet of 14 office-equipped field service vans brought DAV services literally to the doorsteps of more than one half million veterans, their dependents and survivors.

The continuing need for this program is clearly supported by the statistical information reflecting an increased number of veterans and dependents who have taken advantage of DAV Field Service Unit visits to their communities. This year alone, your NSOs have counseled nearly 16,000 veterans and dependents, resulting in a variety of claims processed.

Our commitment to provide services to the membership and or the veteran community through the DAV's Field Service Unit Program has gained a reputation second to none among veterans and their families coast-to-coast.

This commitment was clearly evident during the recent tornadoes which devastated parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio. There was an immediate response by the DAV. Manned by DAV NSOs, a Field Service Unit was dispatched to the disaster areas to administer yet another DAV program . . . that of the Disaster Relief Fund.

At our last Convention in Washington, D.C., we publicly announced two new exciting programs which would greatly enhance our efforts in the areas of representation and communication.

It was decided over a year ago that there was a need to develop a structured and continuing training program for NSOs. This decision emerged from our desire to continue providing you with the best service and representation available from any source. In this regard, the record will show that we have lived up to our aspirations and expectations. There have been tremendous advancements made in technology and training. Taking these factors into consideration, and with the experience gained over the last 65 years, we began planning our new training program.

Initially, however, we decided to appoint one person as the responsible party for the formulation and development of the program. We selected Deputy National Service Director Jesse Brown as that individual and I am excited when I report to you of the outstanding accomplishments made by Jesse and that he has now completed the planning phase of the program. During this phase, we also selected a "training committee" consisting of several National Service Officers from across the country. They are: Richard E. Patterson and Edward J. Kowalczyk from Washington, D.C.; Darrel E. Badcock from San Antonio, Texas; Roy E. Spicer from Roanoke, Virginia; Robert R. Jordan from Los Angeles, California; Charles M. McLeod from St. Petersburg, Florida; and an audiovisual consultant.

These individuals assisted in the formalization of the objectives and developed a prototype lesson plan for evaluation purposes. This approach provided us with an action plan for transforming the various stages of the training program into a model which illustrated the components of the training courses and how they should be presented. Additionally, we had an opportunity to review the information prepared by our consultants who are attorneys and former members of the Board of Veterans Appeals.

A preview of the program was attended by members of the DAV's Training and Advisory Committees, officials from the Veterans Administration and staff from National Service and Legislative Headquarters. Everyone was invited to comment and their positive reaction exceeded our expectations. Obviously, we were delighted that our prototype lesson plan was so overwhelmingly accepted and we will use the result to develop guidelines for the entire program.

The course material will focus on anatomy, physiology and pathology of the human body and VA laws and regulations as they apply to veterans seeking benefits from the VA and other government agencies. Further, the training program also makes use of the latest advances in modern teaching methods, medical information, video materials and computer technology.

We expect this program to set the standard for training individuals in the field of veterans' benefits and allow DAV NSOs to remain the best claim representatives available. Additionally, because of its dynamic features, we anticipate that demand for the program will be heavy. We believe it will generate interest by other service organizations, the VA and other agencies that assist veterans and their families. The training program represents a challenge that we could not ignore. It allows us to combine state of the art technology with our many years of experience to fulfill our single purpose mandate of providing the best service and representation available.

The DAV has always been willing to accept the challenge of change when it is beneficial to our members and those whom we serve. Another example of our adaptability was the introduction of plans to install a nationwide computer network. I am pleased to report that it is not longer a plan, it is a reality.

We have installed computers capable of telecommunication in each of our 68 National Service Offices. Additionally, seven DAV Departments are part of the network and many others have expressed an interest.

It is clear that our decision to purchase this equipment has provided the National Organization and Departments with an opportunity to remain competitive and efficient. For the first time in DAV's history, all National Service Offices are fully automated and have the capability to perform a wide variety of sophisticated applications such as word processing, data management and accounting. This will enhance our efforts to continue providing quality representation and service and allow the National Organization to communicate with each office and Department on issues of critical importance to veterans and their families.

Equally important is the potential for each personal computer to be able to access mainframe computers. Once the micro-to-mainframe link has been established, it opens up new uses of the combined technology that previously were not available.

These are merely examples of our commitment to you, the members of the DAV. You have earned the best and we intend to see that you receive the best.

It is obvious there is much work to be done in the future in order to maintain the DAV's record of achievement. You are now part of an organization of over a million members and, as a result, you still have a greater responsibility.

We have the capacity to quickly get information to you on important issues through our telecommunication network and, therefore, your cooperation becomes essential. When asked by the National Organization to write to your Congressional leaders, please do so, for your sake and the common good of all veterans and their families.

DAV members have proven their loyalty by great sacrifices in America's Armed forces and we are sure you will continue to meet the challenges which face us in the future. The DAV is not an organization of words, it is an action organization and we have and will continue to expand our efforts in order to accommodate the changing conditions of those who were injured or diseased during their active military service.

It is impossible to accept this vast responsibility without the assistance and cooperation of you—the members of this great organization. You are to be congratulated for your continued service through your Chapter, Department and the National Organization and for serving as an inspiration to the nation and members of your communities.

There is little doubt that we have the greatest organization on earth. It's great because of the tremendous support received from our membership and the personal commitment of our National Service Office corps. I want to express my appreciation to National Service Officers Verne Nygaard, Willis Gore, Jim Richardson, Fred Davis and Michael Corcoran, who have recently retired, for their dedication and loyalty to this organization over the years.

I would like to personally acknowledge and express my thanks to the National Finance Committee and the National Executive Committee for their continued support of our National Service Program, which we believe to be truly second to none.

It's been a real pleasure and a distinct honor not only to work with, but to be associated with, National Commander Chad Colley and Auxiliary National Commander Sally Wilton during the past year.

Of course, my job as National Service Director has been made significantly easier due to the support and leadership of National Adjutant Denvel D. Adams.

Additionally, I believe the DAV is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard-charging individual who shows a genuine concern for all of this nation's veterans and their families as your National Director of Services Charles E. "Butch" Joeckel, Jr. It has been a distinct pleasure for me to work with him this past year.

Also, my thanks are extended to auxiliary National Adjutant L. Kit Seal-Feighner and her staff for their excellent support of our programs.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not extend a warm and personal thanks to my own staff, Jesse Brown, Charlie Thompson and Walt Phillips, and to all of the staff at National Service and Legislative Headquarters.

As in the past, the interrelationship between the Washington office and the Cincinnati office has been extremely effective as we combine efforts and communicate daily to ensure the best service possible for those we serve.

We in the Disabled American Veterans and the DAV Auxiliary make a difference. Because of that difference, we can make sure that no one—particularly our political leaders—ever forgets the price that you have paid to purchase our nation's freedom and that our federal benefits and services were earned in that pursuit.

Recapitulation of Service Activities, July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985

Office: Total National Service Office Report:

1.	New service connections	9,896
2.	Compensation increased	36,164
3.	Compensation maintained	79,268
4.	Pension	20,753
5.	Pension maintained	8,147
6.	Social Security	1,216
7.	Education benefits	24,330
8.	Miscellaneous	1,970
9.	Death compensation	3,131
10.	Death pension	5,608
11.	Insurance	1,174
12.	Burial allowances	8,818
13.	Total awards	200,475
14.	Total monthly increases	$75,041,096.49
15.	Total retroactive payments	898,690,892.53
16.	Full amount	973,731,989.02
17.	VA files reviewed	385,870
18.	Power of attorneys	101,793
19.	Interviews	252,435
20.	Rating board appearances	226,172
21.	New claims	209,793
22.	Membership	26,458

Office: Montgomery, AL:

1.	New service connections	134

2.	Compensation increased	602
3.	Compensation maintained	1,259
4.	Pension	381
5.	Pension maintained	96
6.	Social Security	37
7.	Education benefits	380
8.	Miscellaneous	20
9.	Death compensation	42
10.	Death pension	73
11.	Insurance	8
12.	Burial allowances	111
13.	Total awards	3,143
14.	Total monthly increases	$1,202,836.00
15.	Total retroactive payments	13,413,599.00
16.	Full amount	14,616,435.00
17.	VA files reviewed	6,977
18.	Power of attorneys	1,119
19.	Interviews	2,413
20.	Rating board appearances	4,633
21.	New claims	925
22.	Membership	265

Office: Phoenix, AZ:

1.	New service connections	244
2.	Compensation increased	846
3.	Compensation maintained	1,779
4.	Pension	333
5.	Pension maintained	114
6.	Social Security	21
7.	Education benefits	919
8.	Miscellaneous	26
9.	Death compensation	106
10.	Death pension	73
11.	Insurance	0
12.	Burial allowances	85
13.	Total awards	4,546
14.	Total monthly increases	$1,834,406.00
15.	Total retroactive payments	20,953,854.00
16.	Full amount	22,788,260.00
17.	VA files reviewed	7,519
18.	Power of attorneys	2,113
19.	Interviews	3,257
20.	Rating board appearances	6,631
21.	New claims	2,801
22.	Membership	200

Office: Little Rock, AR:

1.	New service connections	210
2.	Compensation increased	662
3.	Compensation maintained	1,274
4.	Pension	376
5.	Pension maintained	101
6.	Social Security	15
7.	Education benefits	347
8.	Miscellaneous	26
9.	Death compensation	88
10.	Death pension	77
11.	Insurance	11

12. Burial allowances	189
13. Total awards	3,376
14. Total monthly increases	$1,137,848.00
15. Total retroactive payments	14,672,864.00
16. Full amount	15,810,712.00
17. VA files reviewed	8,146
18. Power of attorneys	1,545
19. Interviews	3,358
20. Rating board appearances	4,303
21. New claims	771
22. Membership	596

Office: Los Angeles, CA:

1. New service connections	204
2. Compensation increased	892
3. Compensation maintained	2,002
4. Pension	1,797
5. Pension maintained	91
6. Social Security	24
7. Education benefits	571
8. Miscellaneous	26
9. Death compensation	98
10. Death pension	221
11. Insurance	68
12. Burial allowances	246
13. Total awards	6,240
14. Total monthly increases	$2,011,337.00
15. Total retroactive payments	24,266,993.00
16. Full amount	26,278,330.00
17. VA files reviewed	11,279
18. Power of attorneys	4,143
19. Interviews	5,764
20. Rating board appearances	7,191
21. New claims	8,261
22. Membership	375

Office: San Diego, CA:

1. New service connections	626
2. Compensation increased	523
3. Compensation maintained	1,785
4. Pension	368
5. Pension maintained	680
6. Social Security	10
7. Education benefits	1,394
8. Miscellaneous	153
9. Death compensation	147
10. Death pension	51
11. Insurance	29
12. Burial allowances	169
13. Total awards	5,935
14. Total monthly increases	$2,303,357.00
15. Total retroactive payments	29,512,871.00
16. Full amount	31,816,228.00
17. VA files reviewed	14,370
18. Power of attorneys	1,704
19. Interviews	10,699
20. Rating board appearances	8,924

21. New claims	4,871
22. Membership	753

Office: San Francisco, CA:

1. New service connections	404
2. Compensation increased	1,353
3. Compensation maintained	2,851
4. Pension	246
5. Pension maintained	127
6. Social Security	12
7. Education benefits	1,136
8. Miscellaneous	69
9. Death compensation	85
10. Death pension	75
11. Insurance	66
12. Burial allowances	152
13. Total awards	6,576
14. Total monthly increases	$2,678,681.00
15. Total retroactive payments	29,562,800.00
16. Full amount	32,241,481.00
17. VA files reviewed	11,226
18. Power of attorneys	2,940
19. Interviews	4,554
20. Rating board appearances	5,760
21. New claims	3,211
22. Membership	515

Office: Denver, CO:

1. New service connections	303
2. Compensation increased	603
3. Compensation maintained	1,099
4. Pension	169
5. Pension maintained	36
6. Social Security	8
7. Education benefits	1,030
8. Miscellaneous	86
9. Death compensation	67
10. Death pension	67
11. Insurance	33
12. Burial allowances	177
13. Total awards	3,678
14. Total monthly increases	$1,366,833.00
15. Total retroactive payments	16,125,122.00
16. Full amount	17,491,955.00
17. VA files reviewed	5,933
18. Power of attorneys	1,783
19. Interviews	1,724
20. Rating board appearances	3,660
21. New claims	1,561
22. Membership	1,197

Office: Hartford, CT:

1. New service connections	101
2. Compensation increased	360
3. Compensation maintained	990
4. Pension	97
5. Pension maintained	20
6. Social Security	11
7. Education benefits	70
8. Miscellaneous	41

9. Death compensation	14
10. Death pension	20
11. Insurance	20
12. Burial allowances	152
13. Total awards	1,896
14. Total monthly increases	$692,494.00
15. Total retroactive payments	8,384,188.00
16. Full amount	9,076,682.00
17. VA files reviewed	3,633
18. Power of attorneys	619
19. Interviews	1,693
20. Rating board appearances	2,218
21. New claims	1,076
22. Membership	703

Office: Wilmington, DE:

1. New service connections	32
2. Compensation increased	124
3. Compensation maintained	78
4. Pension	161
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	6
7. Education benefits	123
8. Miscellaneous	19
9. Death compensation	12
10. Death pension	14
11. Insurance	2
12. Burial allowances	12
13. Total awards	583
14. Total monthly increases	$201,100.00
15. Total retroactive payments	2,472,841.00
16. Full amount	2,673,941.00
17. VA files reviewed	1,156
18. Power of attorneys	286
19. Interviews	2,226
20. Rating board appearances	860
21. New claims	760
22. Membership	497

Office: Washington, DC:

1. New service connections	242
2. Compensation increased	709
3. Compensation maintained	840
4. Pension	141
5. Pension maintained	82
6. Social Security	18
7. Education benefits	158
8. Miscellaneous	38
9. Death compensation	40
10. Death pension	33
11. Insurance	16
12. Burial allowances	91
13. Total awards	2,408
14. Total monthly increases	$1,183,393.00
15. Total retroactive payments	12,022,106.51
16. Full amount	13,205,499.51
17. VA files reviewed	3,930

18. Power of attorneys	1,257
19. Interviews	5,172
20. Rating board appearances	2,617
21. New claims	2,583
22. Membership	686

Office: Miami, FL:

1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	11
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	11
14. Total monthly increases	$5,484.20
15. Total retroactive payments	118,347.10
16. Full amount	123,831.30
17. VA files reviewed	424
18. Power of attorneys	879
19. Interviews	5,552
20. Rating board appearances	22
21. New claims	2,593
22. Membership	155

Office: St. Petersburg, FL:

1. New service connections	874
2. Compensation increased	2,995
3. Compensation maintained	7,234
4. Pension	1,837
5. Pension maintained	824
6. Social Security	35
7. Education benefits	1,333
8. Miscellaneous	151
9. Death compensation	306
10. Death pension	314
11. Insurance	114
12. Burial allowances	720
13. Total awards	16,737
14. Total monthly increases	$6,068,836.00
15. Total retroactive payments	72,605,223.00
16. Full amount	78,674,059.00
17. VA files reviewed	26,289
18. Power of attorneys	8,065
19. Interviews	4,757
20. Rating board appearances	12,898
21. New claims	17,457
22. Membership	845

Office: Atlanta, GA:

1. New service connections	156
2. Compensation increased	648
3. Compensation maintained	1,537
4. Pension	109
5. Pension maintained	131

6. Social Security	9
7. Education benefits	230
8. Miscellaneous	24
9. Death compensation	33
10. Death pension	39
11. Insurance	5
12. Burial allowances	69
13. Total awards	2,990
14. Total monthly increases	$1,178,105.00
15. Total retroactive payments	14,514,103.00
16. Full amount	15,692,208.00
17. VA files reviewed	4,163
18. Power of attorneys	1,000
19. Interviews	2,769
20. Rating board appearances	2,457
21. New claims	8,428
22. Membership	136

Office: Honolulu: HI:

1. New service connections	26
2. Compensation increased	71
3. Compensation maintained	249
4. Pension	8
5. Pension maintained	6
6. Social Security	1
7. Education benefits	56
8. Miscellaneous	7
9. Death compensation	8
10. Death pension	5
11. Insurance	11
12. Burial allowances	26
13. Total awards	474
14. Total monthly increases	$204,521.00
15. Total retroactive payments	2,705,075.00
16. Full amount	2,909,596.00
17. VA files reviewed	1,375
18. Power of attorneys	109
19. Interviews	1,426
20. Rating board appearances	480
21. New claims	1,269
22. Membership	44

Office: Boise, ID:

1. New service connections	91
2. Compensation increased	302
3. Compensation maintained	608
4. Pension	226
5. Pension maintained	143
6. Social Security	16
7. Education benefits	219
8. Miscellaneous	9
9. Death compensation	32
10. Death pension	97
11. Insurance	10
12. Burial allowances	66
13. Total awards	1,819
14. Total monthly increases	$815,605.00

15. Total retroactive payments	8,504,500.00
16. Full amount	9,320,105.00
17. VA files reviewed	2,750
18. Power of attorneys	1,490
19. Interviews	1,912
20. Rating board appearances	1,729
21. New claims	2,821
22. Membership	121

Office: Chicago, IL:

1. New service connections	116
2. Compensation increased	558
3. Compensation maintained	1,402
4. Pension	368
5. Pension maintained	123
6. Social Security	58
7. Education benefits	360
8. Miscellaneous	1
9. Death compensation	35
10. Death pension	69
11. Insurance	9
12. Burial allowances	186
13. Total awards	3,285
14. Total monthly increases	$1,406,512.00
15. Total retroactive payments	14,628,160.50
16. Full amount	16,034,672.50
17. VA files reviewed	10,625
18. Power of attorneys	3,155
19. Interviews	4,603
20. Rating board appearances	4,608
21. New claims	10,140
22. Membership	306

Office: Indianapolis, IN:

1. New service connections	113
2. Compensation increased	508
3. Compensation maintained	691
4. Pension	109
5. Pension maintained	327
6. Social Security	13
7. Education benefits	536
8. Miscellaneous	4
9. Death compensation	36
10. Death pension	146
11. Insurance	6
12. Burial allowances	104
13. Total awards	2,593
14. Total monthly increases	$931,308.48
15. Total retroactive payments	10,308,959.00
16. Full amount	11,240,267.48
17. VA files reviewed	4,956
18. Power of attorneys	1,287
19. Interviews	1,825
20. Rating board appearances	3,875
21. New claims	3,388
22. Membership	162

Office: Des Moines, IA:

1. New service connections	64

2.	Compensation increased	411
3.	Compensation maintained	944
4.	Pension	251
5.	Pension maintained	105
6.	Social Security	12
7.	Education benefits	304
8.	Miscellaneous	80
9.	Death compensation	30
10.	Death pension	92
11.	Insurance	41
12.	Burial allowances	215
13.	Total awards	2,549
14.	Total monthly increases	$817,670.00
15.	Total retroactive payments	9,687,479.00
16.	Full amount	10,505,149.00
17.	VA files reviewed	3,823
18.	Power of attorneys	640
19.	Interviews	1,562
20.	Rating board appearances	2,612
21.	New claims	1,859
22.	Membership	684

Office: Wichita, KS:

1.	New service connections	88
2.	Compensation increased	343
3.	Compensation maintained	555
4.	Pension	195
5.	Pension maintained	17
6.	Social Security	7
7.	Education benefits	244
8.	Miscellaneous	27
9.	Death compensation	21
10.	Death pension	31
11.	Insurance	19
12.	Burial allowances	93
13.	Total awards	1,640
14.	Total monthly increases	$736,771.00
15.	Total retroactive payments	8,780,107.00
16.	Full amount	9,516,878.00
17.	VA files reviewed	1,711
18.	Power of attorneys	521
19.	Interviews	1,581
20.	Rating board appearances	1,256
21.	New claims	139
22.	Membership	153

Office: Louisville, KY:

1.	New service connections	232
2.	Compensation increased	613
3.	Compensation maintained	1,557
4.	Pension	732
5.	Pension maintained	170
6.	Social Security	4
7.	Education benefits	498
8.	Miscellaneous	67
9.	Death compensation	69
10.	Death pension	302
11.	Insurance	12

12. Burial allowances	214
13. Total awards	4,470
14. Total monthly increases	$1,606,111.00
15. Total retroactive payments	20,139,975.00
16. Full amount	21,746,086.00
17. VA files reviewed	10,354
18. Power of attorneys	4,679
19. Interviews	1,289
20. Rating board appearances	7,686
21. New claims	3,731
22. Membership	203

Office: New Orleans, LA:

1. New service connections	62
2. Compensation increased	293
3. Compensation maintained	516
4. Pension	294
5. Pension maintained	103
6. Social Security	30
7. Education benefits	393
8. Miscellaneous	35
9. Death compensation	30
10. Death pension	42
11. Insurance	14
12. Burial allowances	80
13. Total awards	1,892
14. Total monthly increases	$702,028.00
15. Total retroactive payments	7,982,177.00
16. Full amount	8,684,205.00
17. VA files reviewed	6,267
18. Power of attorneys	2,014
19. Interviews	3,925
20. Rating board appearances	4,528
21. New claims	2,799
22. Membership	176

Office: Togus, ME:

1. New service connections	29
2. Compensation increased	264
3. Compensation maintained	565
4. Pension	334
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	2
7. Education benefits	213
8. Miscellaneous	2
9. Death compensation	8
10. Death pension	37
11. Insurance	3
12. Burial allowances	3
13. Total awards	1,460
14. Total monthly increases	$742,378.00
15. Total retroactive payments	8,000,862.00
16. Full amount	8,743,240.00
17. VA files reviewed	2,421
18. Power of attorneys	495
19. Interviews	3,534
20. Rating board appearances	1,224

21. New claims	1,035
22. Membership	252

Office: Baltimore, MD:

1. New service connections	106
2. Compensation increased	403
3. Compensation maintained	527
4. Pension	133
5. Pension maintained	22
6. Social Security	6
7. Education benefits	143
8. Miscellaneous	13
9. Death compensation	25
10. Death pension	21
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	61
13. Total awards	1,460
14. Total monthly increases	$504,908.00
15. Total retroactive payments	6,037,586.00
16. Full amount	6,542,494.00
17. VA files reviewed	2,056
18. Power of attorneys	458
19. Interviews	1,887
20. Rating board appearances	1,183
21. New claims	617
22. Membership	391

Office: Boston, MA:

1. New service connections	262
2. Compensation increased	1,027
3. Compensation maintained	1,980
4. Pension	197
5. Pension maintained	412
6. Social Security	26
7. Education benefits	165
8. Miscellaneous	14
9. Death compensation	42
10. Death pension	68
11. Insurance	6
12. Burial allowances	147
13. Total awards	4,346
14. Total monthly increases	$1,712,863.00
15. Total retroactive payments	20,881,241.00
16. Full amount	22,594,104.00
17. VA files reviewed	15,508
18. Power of attorneys	2,031
19. Interviews	9,312
20. Rating board appearances	9,662
21. New claims	3,622
22. Membership	555

Office: Detroit, MI:

1. New service connections	262
2. Compensation increased	1,535
3. Compensation maintained	1,769
4. Pension	2,362
5. Pension maintained	165
6. Social Security	80
7. Education benefits	1,502
8. Miscellaneous	84

9.	Death compensation	166
10.	Death pension	1,147
11.	Insurance	55
12.	Burial allowances	715
13.	Total awards	9,342
14.	Total monthly increases	$2,600,681.00
15.	Total retroactive payments	30,382,804.00
16.	Full amount	32,983,485.00
17.	VA files reviewed	11,990
18.	Power of attorneys	2,206
19.	Interviews	6,173
20.	Rating board appearances	6,792
21.	New claims	7,261
22.	Membership	755

Office: St. Paul, MN:

1.	New service connections	194
2.	Compensation increased	682
3.	Compensation maintained	1,352
4.	Pension	302
5.	Pension maintained	87
6.	Social Security	7
7.	Education benefits	675
8.	Miscellaneous	206
9.	Death compensation	62
10.	Death pension	133
11.	Insurance	139
12.	Burial allowances	69
13.	Total awards	3,908
14.	Total monthly increases	$1,424,102.00
15.	Total retroactive payments	27,353,820.00
16.	Full amount	18,777,922.00
17.	VA files reviewed	6,932
18.	Power of attorneys	1,312
19.	Interviews	2,026
20.	Rating board appearances	4,718
21.	New claims	6,484
22.	Membership	238

Office: Jackson, MS:

1.	New service connections	87
2.	Compensation increased	485
3.	Compensation maintained	956
4.	Pension	315
5.	Pension maintained	138
6.	Social Security	27
7.	Education benefits	232
8.	Miscellaneous	29
9.	Death compensation	31
10.	Death pension	62
11.	Insurance	8
12.	Burial allowances	134
13.	Total awards	2,504
14.	Total monthly increases	$836,879.00
15.	Total retroactive payments	10,519,646.00
16.	Full amount	11,356,525.00
17.	VA files reviewed	1,858

18. Power of attorneys	1,539
19. Interviews	3,198
20. Rating board appearances	1,293
21. New claims	3,625
22. Membership	294

Office: Kansas City, MO:

1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	18
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	18
14. Total monthly increases	$9,403.30
15. Total retroactive payments	275,607.50
16. Full amount	285,010.80
17. VA files reviewed	558
18. Power of attorneys	802
19. Interviews	12,085
20. Rating board appearances	43
21. New claims	1,297
22. Membership	299

Office: St. Louis, MO:

1. New service connections	160
2. Compensation increased	684
3. Compensation maintained	2,123
4. Pension	556
5. Pension maintained	549
6. Social Security	17
7. Education benefits	340
8. Miscellaneous	57
9. Death compensation	62
10. Death pension	65
11. Insurance	28
12. Burial allowances	143
13. Total awards	4,784
14. Total monthly increases	$1,676,644.23
15. Total retroactive payments	21,636,403.66
16. Full amount	23,313,047.89
17. VA files reviewed	8,747
18. Power of attorneys	1,452
19. Interviews	4,822
20. Rating board appearances	3,539
21. New claims	4,706
22. Membership	2,719

Office: Fort Harrison, MT:

1. New service connections	36
2. Compensation increased	162
3. Compensation maintained	455
4. Pension	68
5. Pension maintained	26

6. Social Security	6
7. Education benefits	108
8. Miscellaneous	11
9. Death compensation	11
10. Death pension	12
11. Insurance	10
12. Burial allowances	79
13. Total awards	984
14. Total monthly increases	$445,271.00
15. Total retroactive payments	5,263,750.00
16. Full amount	5,709,021.00
17. VA files reviewed	612
18. Power of attorneys	257
19. Interviews	3,054
20. Rating board appearances	922
21. New claims	307
22. Membership	193

Office: Lincoln, NE:

1. New service connections	43
2. Compensation increased	221
3. Compensation maintained	490
4. Pension	126
5. Pension maintained	46
6. Social Security	23
7. Education benefits	250
8. Miscellaneous	10
9. Death compensation	18
10. Death pension	38
11. Insurance	21
12. Burial allowances	90
13. Total awards	1,376
14. Total monthly increases	$514,824.00
15. Total retroactive payments	6,105,943.00
16. Full amount	6,620,767.00
17. VA files reviewed	1,360
18. Power of attorneys	573
19. Interviews	1,286
20. Rating board appearances	1,012
21. New claims	565
22. Membership	68

Office: Reno, NV:

1. New service connections	43
2. Compensation increased	218
3. Compensation maintained	339
4. Pension	94
5. Pension maintained	33
6. Social Security	6
7. Education benefits	251
8. Miscellaneous	20
9. Death compensation	14
10. Death pension	12
11. Insurance	5
12. Burial allowances	29
13. Total awards	1,064
14. Total monthly increases	$379,811.00

15. Total retroactive payments	4,359,394.00
16. Full amount	4,739,205.00
17. VA files reviewed	1,317
18. Power of attorneys	585
19. Interviews	1,443
20. Rating board appearances	864
21. New claims	467
22. Membership	82
Office: Manchester, NH:	
1. New service connections	78
2. Compensation increased	318
3. Compensation maintained	657
4. Pension	91
5. Pension maintained	56
6. Social Security	18
7. Education benefits	298
8. Miscellaneous	5
9. Death compensation	20
10. Death pension	19
11. Insurance	3
12. Burial allowances	107
13. Total awards	1,670
14. Total monthly increases	$659,509.00
15. Total retroactive payments	7,474,336.00
16. Full amount	8,133,845.00
17. VA files reviewed	1,812
18. Power of attorneys	291
19. Interviews	1,464
20. Rating board appearances	1,061
21. New claims	740
22. Membership	147
Office: Newark, NJ:	
1. New service connections	230
2. Compensation increased	904
3. Compensation maintained	961
4. Pension	134
5. Pension maintained	53
6. Social Security	9
7. Education benefits	133
8. Miscellaneous	17
9. Death compensation	34
10. Death pension	32
11. Insurance	1
12. Burial allowances	25
13. Total awards	2,533
14. Total monthly increases	$1,040,849.00
15. Total retroactive payments	12,560,688.00
16. Full amount	13,601,537.00
17. VA files reviewed	14,007
18. Power of attorneys	1,346
19. Interviews	5,647
20. Rating board appearances	1,059
21. New claims	5,729
22. Membership	292
Office: Albuquerque, NM:	
1. New service connections	121

2. Compensation increased	405
3. Compensation maintained	841
4. Pension	1,273
5. Pension maintained	26
6. Social Security	31
7. Education benefits	311
8. Miscellaneous	5
9. Death compensation	74
10. Death pension	238
11. Insurance	13
12. Burial allowances	146
13. Total awards	3,484
14. Total monthly increases	$1,190,864.47
15. Total retroactive payments	13,665,269.67
16. Full amount	14,856,134.14
17. VA files reviewed	4,215
18. Power of attorneys	960
19. Interviews	3,203
20. Rating board appearances	1,948
21. New claims	3,560
22. Membership	344

Office: New York, NY:

1. New service connections	202
2. Compensation increased	1,337
3. Compensation maintained	3,468
4. Pension	209
5. Pension maintained	235
6. Social Security	26
7. Education benefits	215
8. Miscellaneous	21
9. Death compensation	69
10. Death pension	81
11. Insurance	11
12. Burial allowances	156
13. Total awards	6,030
14. Total monthly increases	$2,595,653.00
15. Total retroactive payments	31,493,112.00
16. Full amount	34,088,765.00
17. VA files reviewed	10,233
18. Power of attorneys	2,133
19. Interviews	8,487
20. Rating board appearances	7,531
21. New claims	3,697
22. Membership	618

Office: Albany, NY:

1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	3
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0

12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	3
14. Total monthly increases	$1,701.00
15. Total retroactive payments	58,337.00
16. Full amount	60,038.00
17. VA files reviewed	277
18. Power of attorneys	437
19. Interviews	1,372
20. Rating board appearances	0
21. New claims	1,036
22. Membership	101

Office: Buffalo, NY:

1. New service connections	193
2. Compensation increased	585
3. Compensation maintained	2,617
4. Pension	66
5. Pension maintained	126
6. Social Security	17
7. Education benefits	621
8. Miscellaneous	21
9. Death compensation	39
10. Death pension	24
11. Insurance	4
12. Burial allowances	93
13. Total awards	4,406
14. Total monthly increases	$1,979,610.00
15. Total retroactive payments	22,441,485.00
16. Full amount	24,421,095.00
17. VA files reviewed	10,567
18. Power of attorneys	1,567
19. Interviews	2,249
20. Rating board appearances	7,183
21. New claims	2,949
22. Membership	307

Office: Syracuse, NY:

1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	26
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	26
14. Total monthly increases	$11,962.81
15. Total retroactive payments	298,960.88
16. Full amount	310,923.69
17. VA files reviewed	622
18. Power of attorneys	472
19. Interviews	3,546
20. Rating board appearances	8

21. New claims	4,191
22. Membership	240

Office: Winston-Salem, NC:

1. New service connections	141
2. Compensation increased	580
3. Compensation maintained	1,456
4. Pension	231
5. Pension maintained	209
6. Social Security	31
7. Education benefits	515
8. Miscellaneous	24
9. Death compensation	36
10. Death pension	65
11. Insurance	7
12. Burial allowances	110
13. Total awards	3,405
14. Total monthly increases	$1,377,896.00
15. Total retroactive payments	15,487,356.00
16. Full amount	16,865,252.00
17. VA files reviewed	5,661
18. Power of attorneys	1,878
19. Interviews	3,268
20. Rating board appearances	3,724
21. New claims	4,217
22. Membership	156

Office: Fargo, ND:

1. New service connections	42
2. Compensation increased	195
3. Compensation maintained	242
4. Pension	89
5. Pension maintained	15
6. Social Security	10
7. Education benefits	246
8. Miscellaneous	27
9. Death compensation	21
10. Death pension	39
11. Insurance	16
12. Burial allowances	90
13. Total awards	1,032
14. Total monthly increases	$344,444.00
15. Total retroactive payments	3,859,103.00
16. Full amount	4,203,547.00
17. VA files reviewed	3,298
18. Power of attorneys	428
19. Interviews	1,099
20. Rating board appearances	807
21. New claims	890
22. Membership	211

Office: Cleveland, OH:

1. New service connections	377
2. Compensation increased	1,769
3. Compensation maintained	3,630
4. Pension	943
5. Pension maintained	433
6. Social Security	12
7. Education benefits	1,112
8. Miscellaneous	26

9. Death compensation	186
10. Death pension	449
11. Insurance	54
12. Burial allowances	642
13. Total awards	9,633
14. Total monthly increases	$3,571,508.00
15. Total retroactive payments	42,969,934.00
16. Full amount	46,541,442.00
17. VA files reviewed	20,163
18. Power of attorneys	4,711
19. Interviews	9,708
20. Rating board appearances	14,631
21. New claims	2,842
22. Membership	1,645
Office: Cincinnati, OH:	
1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	22
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	22
14. Total monthly increases	$8,801.30
15. Total retroactive payments	213,220.22
16. Full amount	222,021.52
17. VA files reviewed	280
18. Power of attorneys	939
19. Interviews	3,089
20. Rating board appearances	72
21. New claims	2,861
22. Membership	131
Office: Muskogee, OK:	
1. New service connections	409
2. Compensation increased	904
3. Compensation maintained	1,648
4. Pension	619
5. Pension maintained	248
6. Social Security	16
7. Education benefits	519
8. Miscellaneous	5
9. Death compensation	82
10. Death pension	178
11. Insurance	29
12. Burial allowances	387
13. Total awards	5,044
14. Total monthly increases	$1,503,982.00
15. Total retroactive payments	24,392,261.52
16. Full amount	25,986,243.52
17. VA files reviewed	8,042

18. Power of attorneys	2,280
19. Interviews	3,317
20. Rating board appearances	4,072
21. New claims	5,065
22. Membership	281
Office: Oklahoma City, OK:	
1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	6
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	6
14. Total monthly increases	$2,422.90
15. Total retroactive payments	61,924.00
16. Full amount	64,346.90
17. VA files reviewed	162
18. Power of attorneys	3,042
19. Interviews	4,370
20. Rating board appearances	3
21. New claims	3,496
22. Membership	201
Office: Portland, OR:	
1. New service connections	147
2. Compensation increased	562
3. Compensation maintained	1,358
4. Pension	204
5. Pension maintained	151
6. Social Security	12
7. Education benefits	527
8. Miscellaneous	24
9. Death compensation	35
10. Death pension	54
11. Insurance	12
12. Burial allowances	218
13. Total awards	3,314
14. Total monthly increases	$1,363,056.00
15. Total retroactive payments	15,951,657.75
16. Full amount	17,314,713.75
17. VA files reviewed	5,198
18. Power of attorneys	1,254
19. Interviews	2,837
20. Rating board appearances	3,639
21. New claims	3,472
22. Membership	450
Office: Philadelphia, PA:	
1. New service connections	219
2. Compensation increased	958
3. Compensation maintained	3,801
4. Pension	255
5. Pension maintained	208

6. Social Security	43
7. Education benefits	354
8. Miscellaneous	19
9. Death compensation	81
10. Death pension	65
11. Insurance	103
12. Burial allowances	347
13. Total awards	6,453
14. Total monthly increases	$3,262,831.00
15. Total retroactive payments	28,055,882.00
16. Full amount	30,318,713,00
17. VA files reviewed	11,479
18. Power of attorneys	3,015
19. Interviews	5,815
20. Rating board appearances	5,180
21. New claims	3,678
22. Membership	493

Office: Pittsburgh, PA:

1. New service connections	156
2. Compensation increased	640
3. Compensation maintained	2,263
4. Pension	242
5. Pension maintained	250
6. Social Security	26
7. Education benefits	233
8. Miscellaneous	73
9. Death compensation	61
10. Death pension	95
11. Insurance	32
12. Burial allowances	256
13. Total awards	4,327
14. Total monthly increases	$1,375,149.00
15. Total retroactive payments	16,537,516.00
16. Full amount	17,912,665.00
17. VA files reviewed	8,847
18. Power of attorneys	1,896
19. Interviews	4,343
20. Rating board appearances	7,593
21. New claims	3,671
22. Membership	762

Office: Wilkes-Barre, PA:

1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	2
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	2
14. Total monthly increases	$909.30

15. Total retroactive payments	29,800.90
16. Full amount	30,710.20
17. VA files reviewed	999
18. Power of attorneys	262
19. Interviews	3,947
20. Rating board appearances	105
21. New claims	2,731
22. Membership	286

Office: San Juan, PR:

1. New service connections	18
2. Compensation increased	410
3. Compensation maintained	1,011
4. Pension	39
5. Pension maintained	114
6. Social Security	9
7. Education benefits	150
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	21
10. Death pension	12
11. Insurance	2
12. Burial allowances	12
13. Total awards	1,798
14. Total monthly increases	$1,093,091.00
15. Total retroactive payments	13,759,008.00
16. Full amount	14,852,099.00
17. VA files reviewed	3,602
18. Power of attorneys	443
19. Interviews	6,356
20. Rating board appearances	1,788
21. New claims	401
22. Membership	284

Office: Providence, RI:

1. New service connections	80
2. Compensation increased	209
3. Compensation maintained	621
4. Pension	64
5. Pension maintained	12
6. Social Security	10
7. Education benefits	138
8. Miscellaneous	5
9. Death compensation	12
10. Death pension	14
11. Insurance	3
12. Burial allowances	52
13. Total awards	1,220
14. Total monthly increases	$639,148.00
15. Total retroactive payments	5,826,827.00
16. Full amount	6,465,975.00
17. VA files reviewed	3,487
18. Power of attorneys	625
19. Interviews	3,182
20. Rating board appearances	1,635
21. New claims	1,086
22. Membership	168

Office: Columbia, SC:

1. New service connections	180

2. Compensation increased	364
3. Compensation maintained	1,139
4. Pension	146
5. Pension maintained	97
6. Social Security	13
7. Education benefits	346
8. Miscellaneous	33
9. Death compensation	34
10. Death pension	38
11. Insurance	12
12. Burial allowances	61
13. Total awards	2,463
14. Total monthly increases	$961,901.00
15. Total retroactive payments	11,669,939.00
16. Full amount	12,631,840.00
17. VA files reviewed	3,927
18. Power of attorneys	1,166
19. Interviews	3,427
20. Rating board appearances	1,987
21. New claims	2,750
22. Membership	241

Office: Sioux Falls, SD:

1. New service connections	34
2. Compensation increased	228
3. Compensation maintained	317
4. Pension	123
5. Pension maintained	36
6. Social Security	0
7. Education benefits	166
8. Miscellaneous	15
9. Death compensation	10
10. Death pension	12
11. Insurance	4
12. Burial allowances	52
13. Total awards	997
14. Total monthly increases	$370,181.00
15. Total retroactive payments	4,089,544.00
16. Full amount	4,459,725.00
17. VA files reviewed	1,553
18. Power of attorneys	318
19. Interviews	918
20. Rating board appearances	747
21. New claims	813
22. Membership	318

Office: Nashville, TN:

1. New service connections	82
2. Compensation increased	379
3. Compensation maintained	860
4. Pension	483
5. Pension maintained	90
6. Social Security	7
7. Education benefits	169
8. Miscellaneous	15
9. Death compensation	48
10. Death pension	52
11. Insurance	2

12. Burial allowances	77
13. Total awards	2,264
14. Total monthly increases	$888,610.00
15. Total retroactive payments	9,944,571.00
16. Full amount	10,833,181.00
17. VA files reviewed	4,667
18. Power of attorneys	1,847
19. Interviews	1,946
20. Rating board appearances	3,458
21. New claims	6,830
22. Membership	407
Office: Dallas, TX:	
1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	18
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	18
14. Total monthly increases	$9,570.40
15. Total retroactive payments	240,004.00
16. Full amount	249,574.40
17. VA files reviewed	1,499
18. Power of attorneys	1,409
19. Interviews	6,582
20. Rating board appearances	224
21. New claims	1,887
22. Membership	352
Office: Houston, TX:	
1. New service connections	274
2. Compensation increased	1,130
3. Compensation maintained	2,599
4. Pension	336
5. Pension maintained	77
6. Social Security	27
7. Education benefits	817
8. Miscellaneous	18
9. Death compensation	58
10. Death pension	79
11. Insurance	7
12. Burial allowances	76
13. Total awards	5,508
14. Total monthly increases	$1,991,394.00
15. Total retroactive payments	25,009,701.00
16. Full amount	27,001,095.00
17. VA files reviewed	11,177
18. Power of attorneys	2,251
19. Interviews	3,622
20. Rating board appearances	8,317

21. New claims	3,900
22. Membership	394

Office: Lubbock, TX:

1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	13
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	13
14. Total monthly increases	$7,508.10
15. Total retroactive payments	181,551.30
16. Full amount	189,059.40
17. VA files reviewed	325
18. Power of attorneys	287
19. Interviews	1,894
20. Rating board appearances	7
21. New claims	297
22. Membership	113

Office: San Antonio, TX:

1. New service connections	0
2. Compensation increased	0
3. Compensation maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension maintained	0
6. Social Security	48
7. Education benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death compensation	0
10. Death pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	0
13. Total awards	48
14. Total monthly increases	$27,435.00
15. Total retroactive payments	611,581.00
16. Full amount	639,016.00
17. VA files reviewed	671
18. Power of attorneys	1,837
19. Interviews	8,432
20. Rating board appearances	126
21. New claims	2,803
22. Membership	662

Office: Waco, TX:

1. New service connections	390
2. Compensation increased	2,128
3. Compensation maintained	3,441
4. Pension	941
5. Pension maintained	140
6. Social Security	30
7. Education benefits	617
8. Miscellaneous	56

9. Death compensation	228
10. Death pension	279
11. Insurance	2
12. Burial allowances	645
13. Total awards	8,897
14. Total monthly increases	$3,137,345.00
15. Total retroactive payments	38,833,057 00
16. Full amount	41,970,402.00
17. VA files reviewed	15,706
18. Power of attorneys	3,321
19. Interviews	4,077
20. Rating board appearances	8,911
21. New claims	3,088
22. Membership	471

Office: Salt Lake City, UT:

1. New service connections	94
2. Compensation increased	306
3. Compensation maintained	1,044
4. Pension	98
5. Pension maintained	76
6. Social Security	1
7. Education benefits	317
8. Miscellaneous	19
9. Death compensation	20
10. Death pension	29
11. Insurance	10
12. Burial allowances	75
13. Total awards	2,089
14. Total monthly increases	$905,542.00
15. Total retroactive payments	10,224,089.00
16. Full amount	11,129,631.00
17. VA files reviewed	3,463
18. Power of attorneys	634
19. Interviews	2,638
20. Rating board appearances	1,770
21. New claims	1,515
22. Membership	158

Office: White River Junction, VT:

1. New service connections	58
2. Compensation increased	138
3. Compensation maintained	286
4. Pension	63
5. Pension maintained	6
C. Social Security	4
7. Education benefits	56
8. Miscellaneous	1
9. Death compensation	7
10. Death pension	18
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	46
13. Total awards	683
14. Total monthly increases	$245,729.00
15. Total retroactive payments	3,040,082.00
16. Full amount	3,285,811.00
17. VA files reviewed	1,557

18. Power of attorneys	327
19. Interviews	1,900
20. Rating board appearances	1,096
21. New claims	547
22. Membership	115
Office: Roanoke, VA:	
1. New service connections	138
2. Compensation increased	641
3. Compensation maintained	1,867
4. Pension	267
5. Pension maintained	182
6. Social Security	49
7. Education benefits	528
8. Miscellaneous	66
9. Death compensation	57
10. Death pension	37
11. Insurance	12
12. Burial allowances	102
13. Total awards	3,946
14. Total monthly increases	$1,532,923.00
15. Total retroactive payments	18,742,177.00
16. Full amount	20,275,100.00
17. VA files reviewed	8,692
18. Power of attorneys	1,430
19. Interviews	7,121
20. Rating board appearances	5,521
21. New claims	2,162
22. Membership	427
Office: Seattle, WA:	
1. New service connections	386
2. Compensation increased	505
3. Compensation maintained	834
4. Pension	540
5. Pension maintained	190
6. Social Security	31
7. Education benefits	748
8. Miscellaneous	17
9. Death compensation	66
10. Death pension	117
11. Insurance	9
12. Burial allowances	31
13. Total awards	3,474
14. Total monthly increases	$1,410,042.00
15. Total retroactive payments	19,225,998.02
16. Full amount	20,636,040.02
17. VA files reviewed	4 156
18. Power of attorneys	2,335
19. Interviews	3,079
20. Rating board appearances	3,562
21. New claims	6,524
22. Membership	572
Office: Huntington, WV:	
1. New service connections	30
2. Compensation increased	303
3. Compensation maintained	889
4. Pension	274
5. Pension maintained	198

6. Social Security	38
7. Education benefits	225
8. Miscellaneous	19
9. Death compensation	17
10. Death pension	37
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial allowances	108
13. Total awards	2,138
14. Total monthly increases	$878,259.00
15. Total retroactive payments	9,484,296.00
16. Full amount	10,362,555.00
17. VA files reviewed	8,769
18. Power of attorneys	1,766
19. Interviews	5,170
20. Rating board appearances	3,361
21. New claims	6,290
22. Membership	158

Office: Milwaukee, WI:

1. New service connections	241
2. Compensation increased	1,088
3. Compensation maintained	1,368
4. Pension	300
5. Pension maintained	117
6. Social Security	31
7. Education benefits	641
8. Miscellaneous	82
9. Death compensation	68
10. Death pension	100
11. Insurance	54
12. Burial allowances	227
13. Total awards	4,317
14. Total monthly increases	$1,465,799.00
15. Total retroactive payments	17,214,101.00
16. Full amount	18,679,900.00
17. VA files reviewed	5,684
18. Power of attorneys	1,637
19. Interviews	2,842
20. Rating board appearances	4,370
21. New claims	2,305
22. Membership	237

Office: Cheyenne, WY:

1. New service connections	32
2. Compensation increased	81
3. Compensation maintained	234
4. Pension	38
5. Pension maintained	18
6. Social Security	1
7. Education benefits	148
8. Miscellaneous	2
9. Death compensation	9
10. Death pension	9
11. Insurance	3
12. Burial allowances	50
13. Total awards	625
14. Total monthly increases	$252,469.00

15. Total retroactive payments	2,865,121.00
16. Full amount	3,117,590.00
17. VA files reviewed	808
18. Power of attorneys	185
19. Interviews	617
20. Rating board appearances	486
21. New claims	330
22. Membership	98

REPORT OF JOHN F. HEILMAN, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

National Commander Colley, distinguished guests and delegates to this National Convention, it is a distinct honor and privilege to present to this 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans the Annual Report of the National Department of Legislation.

Once again, I can report to you that the primary legislative mission of the DAV—to protect and improve America's system of benefits and services for our nation's service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors—has been pursued with vigor and effectiveness since we last met one year ago.

In the fall of last year and thus far in 1985, we have achieved the enactment into law of major veterans' program improvements—including several DAV legislative initiatives. We have met "head on" threats to existing VA programs and benefit levels—most notably a recommendation from the Department of the Treasury to tax VA disability compensation benefits—and we have focused considerable attention and effort on VA health care benefits and services, particularly in the areas of funding and staffing levels of our VA hospital system.

As an indication of the scope and intensity of DAV legislative activity this past year, consider that our organization has presented testimony to Committees of the U.S. Congress having jurisdiction over veterans' issues on 30 separate occasions. The subject matter of this testimony has covered virtually every benefit program the VA has to offer to veterans, their dependents and survivors.

In addition to DAV legislative staff personnel, our organization's "lobbying force" has included National Commander Chad Colley, Director of Services "Butch" Joeckel, and Employment Director Ron Drach. Also, as in prior years, DAV Department officials and National Service Officers have participated in local "field hearings" held in various locations throughout the country. On one occasion, DAV National Service Officers traveled to Washington to testify before Committees of the Congress. As always, they have represented our organization in an exemplary fashion.

Finally, and most importantly, have been the personal lobbying contributions of all of you—our DAV and DAVA membership. Your efforts, both individually and collectively, have demonstrated time and again that the terms "grass roots" and "democratic process" are, in fact, one and the same—in other words, in America, individual input can and does influence governmental decisions.

We must not lose sight of this.

To date, 931 DAV Chapters and Auxiliary Units have conducted presentations of our organization's Legislative Action Program since its official commencement a little more than three and one half years ago. This is 36% of all DAV Chapters and it is an impressive figure—but we *must* continue and intensify this effort toward the goal of organizing *all* of our Chapters and Auxiliary Units. We *must* do this if our organization is to be able to preserve what VA benefits we already have and successfully lobby for what we shall need in the future.

MAJOR VETERANS' LEGISLATION ENACTED INTO LAW SINCE THE 63RD NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCES EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1984 (PUBLIC LAW 98-525, ENACTED 10/19/84)

This measure establishes a three year "peacetime G.I. Bill" program fashioned primarily to act as a recruitment and retention incentive for military service in our nation's all-volunteer forces.

The program requires a $100 monthly deduction in active duty pay (for a period of 12 months) and will be open only to those personnel entering service after June 30, 1985, and before July 1, 1988, (exception—members already on active duty as of July 1, 1985, *and* who also have eligibility under the Vietnam Era G.I. Bill, will get full program benefits without pay deduction, plus one half of the Vietnam Era G.I. Bill benefits to which they have established eligibility). Recruits entering service during the three year period of the program are automatically enrolled, unless they request otherwise. The program carries a ten year "delimiting date" (benefits must be used within ten years of discharge from service.)

Benefits are provided as follows:

A basic benefit of $300 per month for 36 months based upon an obligation of (a) three years of active duty or (b) two years of active duty and four years in the Selected Reserves of the National Guard (paid for by VA).

A basic benefit of $250 per month for 36 months based upon an obligation of two years of active duty (paid for by VA).

A discretionary, additional $400 monthly "kicker" to the basic benefit (paid for by DOD).

Based upon an additional five years of active service (in addition to the original three), a discretionary "supplemental" $300 monthly benefit (paid for by DOD), plus

A discretionary $300 monthly "kicker" to the "supplemental" (paid for by DOD).

During the life of the program (July 1, 1985, through June 30, 1988), no new enrollments will be permitted under the current contributory Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP).

Personnel in the National Guard and Ready Reserves will be eligible for a program (requiring 12 $100 monthly pay deductions) that would authorize $140 per month for 36 months based upon a six year enlistment, reenlistment or extension obligation. Participants in this program can start using their benefits after six months of service in the National Guard or Ready Reserves (paid for by DOD).

THE VETERANS HEALTH CARE ACT OF 1984 (PUBLIC LAW 98-528, ENACTED 10/22/84)

The major provisions of this law propose to:

Amend Section 218, Title 38, USC, to clarify the statutory authority, duties and responsibilities of VA police officers, and to authorize the Administrator to pay increased uniform allowances and rates of basic pay in order to recruit and retain such police officers.

Authorize the VA to provide treatment services and establish special hospital units for the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Establish a National Center on PTSD to conduct and promote research and the training of health care and related personnel in the diagnosis and treatment of veterans with PTSD.

Require the VA to establish a special committee on PTSD to advise the Chief Medical Director on policies, guidance and coordination of services relating to PTSD.

Extend by one year (through September 30, 1985) the VA's authority to provide hospital and outpatient care to obviate the need for hospital admission for certain veterans in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Grant the VA permanent authority to appropriate such sums as may be necessary to fund the Geriatric Research Educational and Clinical Centers (GRECC) program.

Authorize the VA to make state home grants to be used by states to acquire existing buildings for furnishing nursing home and domiciliary care to veterans.

Require the VA to achieve effective coordination of laws administered by the VA, pertaining to veterans' benefits and services, with programs conducted by state, local, public and private agencies with special emphasis placed on veterans who are 65 years of age or older.

Grant authority for VA to provide assistive devices, including telecaptioning television decoders, to veterans who are profoundly deaf from service-connected causes.

Permit the VA to increase the minimum, intermediate or maximum rates of basic pay for certain clinical or counseling psychologists.

Authorize the VA to waive the mandatory reductions in military retirement pay of federal employees, if necessary to recruit a well-qualified doctor of medicine or osteopathy for employment in the Department of Medicine and Surgery.

Direct the VA to issue regulations providing guidelines for the treatment and rehabilitation of veterans for alcohol or drug dependence or abuse disabilities in VA facilities.

Require the VA to submit to the Veterans Affairs Committees a report by September 30, 1985, on VA programs in furnishing supportive counseling and other medical services to terminally ill veterans, including supportive counseling to their families.

Express the sense of the Congress that the VA conduct a study of veterans residing in remote areas to gather information on the feasibility and appropriateness of alternative approaches to providing health care services for such veterans.

Designate the VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as the "Alvin C. York VA Medical Center" and the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as the "Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center."

THE VETERANS DIOXIN AND RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION STANDARDS ACT OF 1984 (PUBLIC LAW 98-542, ENACTED 10/24/84)

As passed by the Congress, this law acknowledges the federal government's responsibility to provide appropriate compensation to veterans who have suffered disabilities as a result of exposure to Agent Orange and ionizing radiation, and to the survivors of those veterans whose death resulted from such disabilities.

To fulfill this responsibility, this legislation requires the VA, through the public rule-making process, to establish guidelines and, where appropriate, standards and criteria for the adjudication of these claims on the basis of available sound, scientific and medical evidence.

To assist the VA In this regard, this legislation establishes an Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards that will review and evaluate dioxin and radiation related scientific evidence as it becomes available. This Committee will then be required to make periodic reports to the VA and the Veterans Affairs Committees regarding their findings and evaluations of such studies.

Subsequently, the VA, through the public rule-making process, will make a final determination to compensate veterans or their survivors for disabilities or death found to be linked to exposure to Agent Orange or ionizing radiation.

In addition, this legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to prescribe guidelines, through a public rule-making process specifying the minimum standards governing the preparation of radiation does estimates for radiation related compensation claims, thereby making such standards uniform for all branches of the Armed Services.

Finally, this law provides for the monthly payment of temporary disability or death benefits in the cases of veterans who served in the Republica of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era and who, within one year after date of departure from Vietnam, are diagnosed as suffering from chloracne or porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT), a liver condition.

These monthly benefits will be paid at the same rates prescribed for disability compensation for veterans, or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for survivors. Derivative benefits, such as educational benefits, special adapted housing, etc., will also be available to persons eligible for these new benefits.

Under the terms of this legislation, these monetary and derivative benefits are only available for the two year period beginning on October 1, 1984, and terminating on September 30, 1986. No benefits will be paid for any period prior to October 1, 1984.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1984 (PUBLIC LAW 98-543, ENACTED 10/24/84)

This Public Law contained provisions which:

Provided a 3.2% across-the-board increase in the basic rates of VA service-connected disability and Dependency and Indemnity (DIC) benefits, as well as the special statutory awards (excluding the "k" award) and dependency allowances which apply to the programs (effective 12/1/84).

Increased the VA's annual clothing allowance from $338 to $349 (effective 12/1/84).

Provided a 10% increase in the rates of all VA educational programs under Chapters 31, 34, 35, and 36 of Title 38, USC (effective 10/1/84).

Increased from $32,500 to $35,000 and $5,000 to $6,000 the maximum grants of special adapted housing and housing assistance for certain severely disabled service-connected veterans (effective 1/1/85).

Increased from $4,400 to $5,000 the maximum assistance for the automobile grant to certain service-connected disabled veterans and liberalized entitlement of veterans eligible for automobile adaptive equipment for no more than two vehicles at any one time and restricted entitlement for replacement vehicles to no more than two vehicles in any four year period (effective 1/1/85).

Permitted the VA to exclude the value of the home of a single, institutionalized, incompetent veteran from the limitations in computing such veteran's estate with respect to the suspension of benefits' requirement.

Created a pilot program (from February 1, 1985, through January 31, 1989) for service-connected veterans awarded total disability compensation on the basis of individual unemployability for the purpose of allowing these veterans and those currently receiving individual unemployability benefits the opportunity to receive training under Chapter 31, Title 38, USC—including a 12 month period of "trial work" without losing total disability compensation payments.

Established a pilot program (from February 1, 1985, through January 31, 1989) providing for vocational training and VA health care eligibility services and protection for veterans under age 50 who are receiving VA pension benefits.

Required the VA to submit a report to the Veterans Affairs Committees on the results of medical examinations given veterans granted nonservice-connected pension benefits solely by virtue of being age 65 years of age or older, for the purpose of determining the actual percentage of disability applicable under the VA Rating Schedule.

Specified that a veterans' participation in a VA incentive therapy or compensation work therapy program will not be considered as a basis for denying or discounting a total disability rating for VA compensation or pension purposes.

Extended the Veterans Readjustment Appointment Authority for two years, until September 30, 1986, and raised the maximum grade level at which appointments may be made from GS-7 to GS-9 level, as well as providing limited appeal rights for such veterans.

Extended the availability of appropriated funds under the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act for one year, to September 30, 1987; and extended by six months, until September 1, 1985, the date by which veterans previously certified must commence a training program under the Act. The law also extended to 90 days the lifetime of the certification of eligibility furnished to veterans under this program and extended the application date deadline for three months, through February 28, 1985, after which assistance may not be paid to an employer on behalf of a veteran who initially applied after that date.

DAV Legislative Activities in the First Session of the 99th Congress

PROPOSED TAXATION OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

The most serious threat against America's service-connected disabled veteran population in recent memory was launched even before the convening of the First Session of the 99th Congress—and it kept the DAV fully occupied from January of this year through the end of May.

In late November, 1984, the Treasury Department (under then-Secretary Donald Regan) revealed its Tax Simplification Plan.

The DAV found that a provision of this plan proposed, effective January 1, 1987, to subject all VA disability compensation benefits to taxation. In lieu of the current tax exempt status of compensation benefits, a meaningless 15% "tax credit" was proposed—one that many disabled veterans would not even be able to qualify for at all. Paradoxically, the Treasury Department's proposal would have hit the most severely disabled service-connected veteran the hardest.

In December of 1984, the DAV Legislative Staff met with Professional Staff Members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, informed them of the proposal and urged them to have their Committee members act in opposition to the proposal as soon as the First Session of the 99th Congress convened in January.

The January, 1985, issue of the *DAV Magazine* informed all DAV/DAVA members of the imposing threat and called for all-out grass roots effort to be mounted with members of Congress and the White House. Commander Colley, in the interim, had written a strong letter of protest to the President of the United States.

VA Administrator Harry Walters, to his credit, wrote the Secretary of the Treasury and informed him that he was adamantly opposed to the taxation of disability compensation benefits.

Commander Colley, in his formal presentation to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees in February of this year, highlighted the tax threat and urged the Committees to lead the fight against it. Shortly after Commander Colley's presentation, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Members of the House and Senate Affairs Committees introduced legislation in the Congress (H. Con. Res. 69 and S. Con. Res. 20) which condemned the proposed tax and expressed the sense of the Congress that VA disability compensation benefits should continue to remain exempt from taxation.

The DAV lobbying effort intensified. All members of Congress were contracted by the DAV and urged to cosponsor the above cited legislation. In addition, Commander Colley wrote to the new Secretary of the Treasury James Baker (former Secretary of the Treasury Regan became White House Chief of Staff in a "job swap") and requested a meeting. In the meantime, responding to our grass roots request, thousands upon thousands of DAV and DAVA members across the country wrote to Capitol Hill, the White House and the Department of the Treasury voicing their adamant opposition to the proposed tax (some 30,000 letters were received by the White House and Treasury Department alone).

Commander Colley's letter to Secretary Baker next resulted in a meeting of Commander Colley and Ronald Pearlman, the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy (the original architect of the tax proposed). VA and Pentagon officials also attended this meeting.

There was to be no doubt about the position of the Department of the Treasury as evidenced by the opening words of Pearlman to Commander Colley, "What is so special about disabled veterans that their benefits should be treated differently than anyone else?"

The DAV went into high gear.

Every member of Congress was given the Pearlman "quote" and those not yet on board the two sense of the Congress resolutions as cosponsors were urged to do so. In this second letter, these members were informed that the June, 1985, issue of the *DAV Magazine* would list the cosponsors for all of our DAV and DAVA membership to examine.

At DAV urging, Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt contacted Treasury Secretary Baker and urged him to meet with Commander Colley. During this same time, the DAV set up a meeting with all of the major veterans' organizations and urged that all act in a unified fashion.

As a tactic to be used if necessary, the DAV prepared a full page ad—and open letter to the President with a picture of Commander Colley and reference to the Pearlmant "quote"—an arranged with the *Washington Post, Washington Times*, and *USA Today* to run the ad for all America to see. (The ad was given to Secretary Baker—through Representative Hammerschmidt—with the statement that this is what the DAV intended to do in defense of compensation benefits.)

Secretary Baker agreed to meet with the DAV and on May 13, 1985, Commander Colley and legislative personnel met with the Secretary, along with representatives from the American Legion, VFW, Blinded Veterans Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS.

The Treasury Secretary told the DAV that he was "sympathetic" to our concerns, but urged us not to go public on the issue before he had a chance to make his recommendations to the President and the President make this final decision. (The Secretary declined to tell us specifically what his recommendations would be.)

On May 28, 1985, in a major television address to the nation on his tax reform proposal, President Reagan *specifically mentioned* that his plan would not propose to tax certain military allowances and VA disability compensation benefits. According to the President, America's disabled veterans have "already paid their dues."

This concession on the part of the President represented a major victory for the DAV and, more importantly, for the 2.2 million disabled veterans currently in receipt of disability compensation benefits. It also demonstrated, in a most convincing fashion, that an active, involved and growing membership is necessary if our organization is to preserve and protect our veterans' benefit system.

VA FUNDING AND PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986

The second major (and still ongoing) effort occupying DAV time and energy centers upon the Administration's Fiscal Year 1986 VA budget request and ensuing Congressional actions.

In terms of dollars requested, the overall VA budget request submitted by the Administration to the Congress represented a "tight freeze" of Fiscal Year 1985 expenditures—the request was some $27.1 billion in budget authority, approximately $123 million below the 1985 levels.

Major "savings" were contained in the request, based upon the expectation that the Congress would:

Require a 5 percent reduction in pay for all federal workers (including VA).

Decrease the funding of grants to states for construction of extended care facilities.

Implement "third party reimbursement" from private medical insurance companies for veteran policyholders treated by VA.

Require a 1 percent across-the board staffing reduction in federal employees.

Substantially reduce VA construction funding.

increase from 1 percent to 5 percent the "user fee" now charged (to nonservice-connected veterans) in the VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program.

Repeal current sections of law that assure inpatient care for nonservice-connected conditions to veterans over age 65 years and establish a "means test" for inpatient care eligibility for certain categories of veterans (with no service-connected conditions) without regard to age.

Also contained in the request, with no anticipated Fiscal Year 1986 savings, was the proposal to consolidate all major VA regional office functions—including adjudication of claims—into three major locations across the country.

The DAV, in testimony before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs, Budget, and Appropriations Committees, strongly opposed the above, pointing out that several of them had completely "erroneous savings assumptions."

Feedback from Capitol Hill, especially the Veterans Affairs Committees, soon revealed that there was little Congressional sympathy for some of the Administration proposals—specifically, on the issues of consolidation of regional offices, the 5 percent federal pay reduction and the increase in the VA's Home Loan Guaranty user fee.

Still, the initial, major VA funding recommendations to both Houses of Congress would come, not from the Veterans Affairs Committees, but from those on the Budget. Therefore, in the important areas of health care funds and COLA adjustments, for example, the DAV would have to influence those members of Congress who are not necessarily most knowledgeable (and not necessarily most sympathetic) concerning VA programs.

House and Senate Budget Committee members were "lobbied" by the DAV—both by the Washington Legislative Staff and by DAV/DAVA members across the country. By mid-April, the two Budget Committees order budget resolutions to the floor of their respective bodies which propose the following:

House of Representatives.—The House resolution (H.Con.Res. 152) called for VA budget authority of $27.4 billion. This would provide sufficient funds for a full COLA adjustment in VA service-connected disability and death compensation benefits (and in the pension programs) effective December 1, 1985. It also would allow for hospital and medical care support at current Fiscal Year 1985 levels *with* and extra amount for inflationary growth. Some $300 million in "non-specified savings" would be required (which could be achieved without major damage to benefits and services).

Senate.—The Senate resolution (S. Con. Res. 32) calls for VA budget authority of $26.7 billion. This funding would require a one year freeze on COLA adjustments for disability compensation recipients. It also would mandate some $680 million in "savings" in Fiscal Year 1986, mainly through the imposition of a health care "means test" for all non-service-connected veterans, the requirement for third party reimbursement from health care insurers and a "graduated" increase in the VA's Home Loan Guaranty user fee.

When the Senate budget resolution came to the floor, Senator Alan Cranston offered an amendment that proposed additional funding sufficient to provide for a COLA adjustment in compensation and pension benefits and for adequate support of our VA hospital system. The DAV—again in Washington and throughout the country—gave strong support to the Cranston Amendment. Unfortunately, it failed to carry by the very close and *partisan* vote of 49 opposed to 47 in favor.

The House, during the same time, passed its budget resolution.

At present, the House and Senate Budget Committees are attempting to reconcile their differences. The DAV has been meeting with the principal conferee members involved—including a meeting with Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici and his chief advisor to the Budget Committee. Our objective will be to achieve the figures contained in the House budget resolution which would provide for equal treatment of service-connected disabled veterans, their families and survivors, as well as authorizing sufficient funding to allow for adequate maintenance of VA health care benefits and services (and, especially, staffing levels).

PENDING LEGISLATION

DISABILITY COMPENSATION INCREASE LEGISLATION

As mentioned earlier, the issue of an upward adjustment (COLA) in VA service-connected disability and death compensation benefits will depend, in large measure, upon action by the Budget Committees and the Congress on the funding ceiling levels provided to the VA in the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget.

Nevertheless, the House Veterans Affairs Committee has held hearings on the disability compensation program (during which time the DAV testified) which have resulted in (1) house passage of a bill (H.R. 2343) that contains certain program improvements and (2) the recent "markup" of a compensation increase bill for full consideration on the floor of the House.

The bill "marked up" and ordered favorably reported to the floor of the House calls for a 4.1% across-the-board increase in service-connected disability and death compensation benefits, effective December 1, 1985. Assuming House passage, the bill will then be referred to the Senate.

Again, I must underscore that the fate of this bill and the actual percentage rate of compensation increase that may or may not ultimately be provided by the entire Congress depends upon the overall VA funding levels provided in the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget.

The measure passed by the House and referred to the Senate, H.R. 2343, the Veterans Compensation Benefits Amendments Act of 1985, contains the following major provisions:

A "sense of the Congress declaration" that VA disability compensation benefits shall continue to remain exempt from federal taxation.

A requirement that the VA Administrator *shall maintain and operate* at least one VA regional office in each state.

A special disability compensation increase for certain severely disabled service-connected veterans through a liberalization of law that would add lund conditions and paired extremities to those disabilities now covered in Section 360, Title 38, USC, "Special Consideration for Certain Cases of Blindness or Bilateral Kidney Involvement or Bilateral Deafness."

An increase in Servicemens' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) from $35,000 to $50,000 and the extension of VGLI coverage to members of the Ready Reserve and inactive National Guard.

A redefinition of the term "active duty" for VA benefit purposes so as to include certain National Guard technicians and recruiters who are on full time duty status.

Extension of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs' authority to maintain a regional office in Manila, Republic of the Philippines.

Authorization for the widow of the Commandant of the Coast Guard to receive (if eligible) Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits at the same rate applicable to widows of the former Chiefs of other Uniformed Services.

On the "Senate side of the Congress," hearings on VA service-connected disability and death compensation benefits have not yet been held. We expect such hearings to be conducted in early September of this year. (Again, the budget resolution "controversy" is the reason for the delay.)

HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

Both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees have conducted extensive hearings on health care and related issues and positive action has been taken by both Committees.

The House Committee has favorably reported and the full House has passed H.R. 505, the Veterans Health Care Amendments Act of 1985.

As passed by the House, the major provisions of this measure propose to:

Authorize respite care for veterans suffering from chronic long-term illnesses (in order to free hospital beds now occupied by such veterans who could be cared for in their homes if certain temporary relief to families is provided).

Equalize eligibility for domiciliary care for veterans with service-connected disabilities by removing certain admission restrictions.

Allow veterans who would otherwise remain in nursing homes and domiciliaries to receive outpatient care to complete their medical treatment.

Allow veterans in VA nursing homes, domiciliaries or hospital based home care programs to be admitted directly into a community nursing home (rather than the current law requirement of first being admintted to a VA hospital).

Direct VA grant funding for state veterans homes to areas of greatest need—but allow a two year continuation of the current method of "first come—first served" in order for pending state applications to be completed.

Permit the VA to hire, for more than a one year period, student nurses and graduate nurses who are not yet registered in their respective states.

Extend authorization for the VA to contract with halfway houses and other community treatment facilities for treatment of veterans with alcohol or drug abuse problems.

Extend for three years the VA's authority to contract for care of nonservice-connected veterans in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and provide for a three year "phase out" of the so-called "extraordinary" authority to contract for health care which exceeds levels of comparable medical service within the 48 contiguous states (Puerto Rico only).

Transfer three and one half acres of land located next to the Phoenix, Arizona, VA Medical Center from the General Services Administration (GSA) to the VA (at no cost to the VA).

Authorize a three year demonstration project at three locations to test the cost efficiency and medical effectiveness of chiropractic care.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has ordered its bill, S. 876, the Veterans Health Care Amendments Act of 1985, favorably reported to the floor of the Senate for full body consideration. The Senate has yet to act on this measure. As favorably reported by the Committee, S. 876 proposes to:

Extend current authority of the VA to provide medical care treatment to Agent Orange and atomic veterans who allege disabilities as a result of exposure during service.

Establish a pilot program for Vietnam veteran "resource centers" which would consolidate existing psychological readjustment counseling, employment counseling, training and placement services.

Provide special counseling services (with emphasis on psychological needs) for former prisoners-of-war.

Establish a pilot program of community based psychiatric residential treatment for chronically, mentally ill veterans.

Extablish a pilot program of non-institutional alternatives to VA hospital inpatient and nursing home care.

Establish a pilot program of chiropractic services provided to veterans on a fee basis by the VA.

BURIAL AND HOUSING BENEFITS LEGISLATION

The full House of Representatives has approved and referred to the Senate H.R. 2344, the Veterans Housing and Memorial Amendments Act of 1985, which proposes to:

Direct the "orderly" expansion of the VA's National Cemetery System by requiring the VA to submit, annually, a five year plan for the construction and expansion of the system, listing in order of priority the ten geographic areas in the United States in which the need for additional burial spaces is greatest.

Require the placement of upright grave markers in VA national cemeteries, however, allowing a choice for markers by designating certain portions of national cemeteries for the use of flat markers or upright markers.

Direct the establishment of a national cemetery in Merced County, California.

Authorize service-connected disabled veterans entitled to the $6,000 special adapted housing grant (Section 801(b), Title 38, USC) to acquire a suitable housing unit with specially adapted modifications already in place and be reimbursed for the fair market value of such adaptations.

Express the sense of the Congress that the 1% VA Home Loan Guaranty user fee shall not be increased.

Action on similar legislation by the Senate has not yet occurred.

EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION

The full House of Representatives has passed and referred to the Senate H.R. 1408, the Veterans Employment Amendments Act of 1985, which proposes to:

Extend the date by which a veteran must apply to participate in the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program (EVJTA) from February 28, 1985, to December 31, 1985.

Extend the deadline by which a veteran participant in the EVJTA program must be enrolled in a job training program from September 1, 1985, to July 1, 1986.

Amend the requirement that a veteran be unemployed for 15 of the 20 weeks immediately preceding the date of application for the EVJTA program to five of the 20 weeks.

Provide for an authorization of $75 million for the EVJTA program for Fiscal Year 1986.

Increase the maximum grade level for Veterans Readjustment Appointment authority (VRA) from the GS-9 level to the GS-11 level.

Eliminate the 14 educational limitation now in place for non-disabled Vietnam Era veterans in the VRA program, however, provide that a service-connected disabled veteran of the Vietnam Era who has more than 14 years of educational experience shall be given preference for a VRA appointment over other Vietnam Era veterans who have more than 14 years of education.

The Senate has yet to act on similar legislation.

OTHER VETERANS' LEGISLATION AND ISSUES

Thus far this year, the DAV has also testified before Committees of the Congress and/or been involved in the following issues and subjects:

Modification of the current rank-based formula governing payments under the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program.

Tax status of certain income received by the DAV relative to our organization's fund raising efforts.

VA Home Loan Guaranty Program.

VA prosthetics and medical research programs.

Collocation of VA regional offices on VA medical center grounds.

VA treatment and non-VA treatment of the aging veteran population and those veterans with "long-term" health care needs.

VA medical construction program.

Construction of a suitable memorial to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans of the Korean War.

VA benefits of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation ("atomic veterans").

The current $10 fee limitation that now applies to private attorney representation in VA proceedings—the Supreme Court recently rendered a decision on the "NARS vs. Walters" litigation (DAV had filed an amicus "friend of the court" brief with the government) wherein the constitionality of the present $10 fee limitation bar was upheld.

This completes the Annual Report of the Department of Legislation.

Many persons associated with DAV legislative actions deserve recognition for their efforts.

Our friends in Congress, especially those in the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, have again proven themselves to be valuable advocates on behalf of VA benefits and services.

The leadership of National Adjutant Dale Adams gives great strength and stability to the DAV and all of its programs. Director of Services "Butch" Joeckel, in overall charge of functions at our Washington, D.C., office, has given unqualified support and direct assistance to our Capitol Hill efforts.

The entire staffs of our Washington, D.C., and Cincinnati, Ohio, offices, as well as DAV National Service Officers throughout the country, have all made valuable contributions. A very special word of thanks must be given to Deputy National Legislative Director Steve Edmiston, Assistant National Legislative Director for Medical Affairs Dave Gorman, and Associate National Legislative Director Rick Schultz—the hard work, initiative and ability of these three men is of immeasureable value.

It is, of course, a pleasure for me to acknowledge the contributions of that wonderful lady who has led our Auxiliary with such dignity and poise during the past year—Sally Wilton. Commander Wilton, you epitomize the quiet strength, determination and compassion which characterize the ladies of our great Auxiliary.

Of course, the highest praise must be given to you, the individual DAV/Auxiliary member and to all of you Chapter and Department officials who have unhesitatingly and unselfishly responded to our grass roots appeals. Your support and your involvement in our legislative activities are the bottom line factors which have enabled and will continue to enable the DAV to achieve its legislative successes.

Finally, a special note of thanks and appreciation is extended to our National Commander Chad Colley. Commander Colley has maintained an intensive, permanent physical presence in Washington, D.C., and on Capitol Hill during his tenure in office. In so doing, not only has he gained the respect and admiration of many members of Congress for himself, personally, but also for our organization. Without a doubt, the leadership and expertise that Commander Colley has brought to the position of National Commander has materially strengthened the DAV's claim to be the "official spokesman" for America's service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

REPORT OF RONALD W. DACH, NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT DIRECTOR

It is indeed my privilege and honor to submit to the delegates at our 64th National Convention my Annual Report as your National Employment Director and to provide you with information on the various activities of that Office during the past year.

Before doing so, I must first convey my deepest gratitude to National Commander Chad Colley and his Line Officers, as well as National Adjutant Denvel D. Adams for their support and cooperation over the past year.

As you know, many of the duties and responsibilities of the Office of National Employment Director could never be met if it were not for the direct support and help received daily from Administrative Assistant Harold L. Woods. Many of you have known and worked with Harold over the years and are aware that he is an extremely competent staff person and an asset to not only me, but the entire DAV organization.

You should also know that the people behind the scenes—our clerical support staff—are extremely competent, hardworking and dedicated to the goals we all share. They stand alone in assuring that the work flows smoothly at National Service and Legislative Headquarters. Both Mr. Woods and I very much appreciate their help, support and dedication.

Because of the network of our corps of National Service Officers, the DAV is able to provide an effective system of employment information and assistance—which rivals any organization in the country. Our National Service Officers and their staffs work long and hard in an effort to assure that this nation's disabled veterans and their dependents receive all the benefits that they have earned, including certain employment rights. They also answer the call when help is needed on employment legislation.

Heading up the National Service and Legislative Programs is our National Director of Services Charles E. "Butch" Joeckel, Jr. Butch has been in that job less than two years. In that short time, he has established himself as a leaser in the veterans' community and has earned the respect of government leaders in the executive and legislative branches. My gratitude goes out to Butch for his strong support of the programs under the direction of the National Employment Director.

My office also works closely with National Service Director Art Wilson and National Legislative Director Rick Heilman and their respective staffs and I can tell you that they are tremendous assets to our organization. We work together and sometimes have overlapping responsibilities but as a team, we get the job done.

Many of the DAV's employment programs and initiatives are derived from ideas developed at the chapter and state level. They are formulated through resolutions adopted by state conventions and submitted to and considered by the delegates at the National Conventions. These resolutions encompass both legislative and administrative goals that involve changes in programs administered by the Department of Labor, U.S. Postal Service, Office of Personnel Management and the Veterans Administration. Administrative resolutions are pursued through the regulatory and policy procedures of a particular agency while the legislative resolutions are pursued through the Congress.

We work closely with several Committees and Subcommittees in the Congress. When we appear before these various officials, they recognize that we speak for the more than one milllion members of this great organization.

During the course of the past twelve months, we have been involved in numerous projects and activities. On several occasions we have appeared before Committees of Congress to present our views on the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act, contracting out of certain federal jobs, grade reductions in the federal goernment, the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program and the VA's Vocation Rehabilitation Programs.

Additionally, either Hal Woods or myself serve on various Advisory Committees involving the Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Small Business Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority and the Veterans Administration's Vocational Rehabilitation and Readjustment Counseling Programs.

During this past year, we saw a change in leadership at the U.S. Postal Service when Postmaster General Bolger retired and Postmaster General Carlin assumed that position. While we still have problems with various Postal Service policies and procedures, I am happy to report that we enjoy a much better relationship with postal officials today than we did four years ago. As a result, we are often able to resolve many problems before they become major issues. I assure you, however, that we will maintain vigilance with the Postal Service to assure their continuing compliance with federal laws and regulations relative to disabled veterans.

Similarly, we saw two major changes at the Department of Labor. Most recently, Secretary of Labor Donovan resigned and was replaced by Secretary of Labor William Brock. While we have not had an opportunity to meet with him privately, I have received assurances from him that he will continue to offer the support of his office on employment and training programs for veterans, especially disabled veterans.

Donald E. Shasteen was recently confirmed by the Senate and sworn into office as the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment—the second person to hold that position.

In that capacity, Mr. Shasteen is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Labor and the higherst ranking government official who deals specifically with veterans' employment and training programs.

Mr. Shasteen previously held the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor and he too has assured us of his continuing and ongoing support for veterans' employment and training programs. We will be meeting with Mr. Shesteen over the next several months to discuss the possibility of a special employment initiative for disabled veterans.

Recently, Donald J. Devine resigned as Director of the Office of Personnel Management. A successor has been designated but as of this report, has not yet been confirmed. That individual has been contacted by National Commander Chad Colley with a congratulatory note and a request for a meeting as soon as possible. As you know, Dr. Devine was very supportive of veterans' employment and training programs. We hope to meet with the new Director in the near future to discuss the continuation of policies to enhance and improve veterans' preference and other applicable programs.

Permit me to report on the status of several resolutions from last year's Convention.

1. Resolution No. 060.—*Extend the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act (EVJTA).*—The House has introduced, and passed, a measure that would extend EVJTA and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has now taken it under consideration and some positive action is likely.

2. Resolution No. 096.—*Oppose Contracting Out.*—The 99th Congress has introduced legislation and we will continue our work to assure that the measure is enacted, thus putting an end to contracting of certain federal services.

3. Resolution No. 183.—*Extending The Veterans' Readjustment Appointment Authority (VRA).*—This was accomplished in the 98th Congress. (P.L. 98–543)

Although no resolution was officially adopted last year under our continuing mandate to improve employment and training programs for veterans, the National Employment Department initiated a new employment outreach program.

You may recall, during last year's Convention we announced a new employment information program. From the initial pilot project in Detroit, Michigan, we learned much from the program and are currently evaluating the results of our experience in Detroit. We have received many suggestions for improvement of the concept. Subsequent to our review, we will embark on future efforts in other cities over the next year.

National Commander Colley and delegates, I am pleased to report that the state of our National Employment Program is good. In closing, I would also like you to know that my office works very closely on several programs with the National Auxiliary. I would like to commend and thank Auxiliary National Commander Sally Wilton and her very capable staff for their support and cooperation this past year. Auxiliary National Adjutant Kit Seal Feighner and Assistant National Adjusttant Maria Tedrow have also been outstanding supporters of our employment efforts. Most specifically, through Commander Sally and Kit, we increased the Auxiliary's participation and role in the National Journalism Contest, sponsored in part by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

As we all know, the backbone of this organization is the individual member. Our organization and its programs will remain strong and effective only as long as our membership remains strong and effective. It is you the delegates to our 64th National Convention who assure our efforts are recognized and in many instances implemented at the local level. Your ideas and suggestions, usually in the form of resolutions, help us develop strong programs and policies that benefit our nation's disabled veterans and their dependents. Hal Woods and I deeply appreciate all of the support that you have given us through our efforts as well as our visits to your respective areas. With your continued support and cooperation we will continue to be able to provide meaningful programs for our nation's disabled veterans.

[Rising applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Butch, we appreciate very much that informative, inspiring and challenging report.

FROM THE FLOOR. Comrade Commander, Mike Number One.

From the Floor. Comrade Commander, Mike Three.

Commander Colley. Mike Three, you are recognized.

Past National Commander Paul Thompson. Fellow delegates, you have heard that most informative and inspiring report from our National Director of Services. You have heard previous speeches tell us about what a great job our staff is doing on Capitol Hill and in the Washington area. We know and we are very proud of the records of that group for the work that they have done to represent us.

At this time, I make a motion that we accept this most outstanding report from our National Director of Service and give him a rising vote of thanks. [Applause.]

Commander Colley. Mike One, you are recognized.

Mr. Lee Moore. Lee Moore, from Lincoln, Nebraska, delegate, seconds that.

Commander Colley. We have a motion and a second. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries. [Rising applause.]

As a result of the 17 National District meetings, I will entertain a motion that the list of delegates and alternates selected by the 17 National Districts and the Blind Veterans Chapter to serve on the convention committees, which have been posted, be admitted into the record of the proceedings of this convention. I would entertain such a motion.

Mr. Harold Wassenstens. Harold Wassenstens makes that motion.

Past Commander Pealer. Stan Pealer, Past National Commander, seconds the motion.

Commander Colley. We have a motion and second. On the motion, all in favor of the motion signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

I would now like to call on Joe Harold, Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, for a first reading of the proposed amendments.

Joe Harold, Chairman [Constitution and Bylaws Committee]. Thank you, Comrade Commander. Dale Adams, other delegates to this convention.

This morning, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee met and Tom Dehne was the advisor to the committee. He opened the meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairman, which was Joe Harold from District 1, and the Secretary was Richard Sarrazin of District 20.

At this time there will be no discussions on any of these resolutions. They will be printed and be available for you at 9:00 tomorrow morning. That is the purpose of getting this report to you as early as this, so that we will have time to print it, because we considered 28 resolutions. We approved 17 bylaw changes, one resolution, which is not a bylaw, it's a recommendation, and rejected 10. And the rejected resolutions will be read at this time, the numbers, and if I don't read your resolution as a favorable report, you don't know the number of your resolution, you can ask me, I will try to get the number for you. And if you think a favorable report should have been recorded, then you can ask for it to be read at this time and it will be placed on the bottom on the approved list tomorrow as a rejected resolution.

Any question on that one?

Okay, the rejected resolutions were 013, 023, 196, 206, 211, 210, 253, 361, 364, and 365.

Now I will read the resolutions that were approved. I will try to do it as fast as I can.

Resolution No. 002, to amend Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 8.

> *Be it resolved,* That Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 8, be amended to omit the word "business" wherever it shall appear.

Resolution No. 003, *Be it resolved,* That Article III, Section 3.10 be amended as follows:

> Rule 8: Composition of Committee Meetings. Each Convention Committee shall be composed of one member or alternate from the Blind Veterans National Chapter * * *.
>
> Rule 8(a): * * * At such meeting the delgates in each District shall, by a majority vote of those present and voting, elect one member and one alternate.

Resolution No. 004, *Be it resolved* That Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 8(a) be amended as follows:

> Rule 8(a): Each National Executive Committeeman shall on the day prior to the opening session of the Convention * * *.

Resolution No. 005, to amend Article VI, Section 6.2, paragraphs 1 and 2 be amended as follows:

> Paragraph 1 be amended to add "town or borough" after the word "city".
> In paragraph 2 to add the words "town or borough" after the word "city".
> The whole paragraphs 1 and 2 will be printed for you tomorrow so you see how it is.

Resolution No. 006, to amend Article VI, Section 6.5, Paragraph 1(b).

Be it resolved, That Article VI, Section 6.5, Paragraph 1(b) be amended by striking out the entire paragraph and substituting the following:

> Paragraph 1(b): If the National Commander has reason to believe that a Chapter, Department or other subordinate unit has violated the Constitution and Bylaws, he may suspend its charter for period of not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days, pending completion of his investigation. He may, additionally, place the Chapter, Department, or other subordinate unit under trusteeship during this period. In his discretion he may recommend revocation of its charter, in which event the unit may appear before the National Executive Committee to show cause why its charter should not be revoked.

Resolution No. 007, to amend Article VII, Section 7.2, Paragraph 1.

Be it resolved, That Article VII, Section 7.2, Paragraph 1, be amended as follows:

> Paragraph 1: The National Commander by and with the consent of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint a National Adjutant and an Executive Director of the Washington office.

Incidentally, these resolutions were all adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 008, to amend Article VII, Section 7.2.

Be it resolved, That Article VII, Section 7.2 be amended to substitute a new Paragraph 2, (and the remaining paragraphs be renumbered accordingly) as follows:

> Paragraph 2: The National Commander shall appoint an Inspector General whose duties are defined in Section 7.8.

Resolution No. 009, article VII, Section 7.4, Paragraph 3 of the National Bylaws:

Be it resolved, That Article VII, Section 7.4, Paragraph 3 be amended to delete "an Assistant National Adjutant for Charitable Contributions and such other", and to add "one or more", so that the first sentence of the paragraph is as follows:

The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander and the National Executive Committee, shall appoint one or more Assistant National Adjutants as may be deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of his office.

Resolution No. 010, article VII, Section 7.7 and Section 7.8 of the National Bylaws:

Be it resolved, That Article VII, Section 7.7 and Section 7.8 be amended to delete the words "National Director of Services" and substitute the words "Executive Director of the Washington office" wherever they may appear.

Resolution No. 011, article VII of the National Bylaws:

Be it resolved, That Article VII be amended to substitute a new Section 7.8 (and the remaining Sections be renumbered accordingly), as follows:

Section 7.8: Inspector General.

Paragraph 1: The Inspector General shall, under the supervision of the National Commander and the National Adjutant, investigate any alleged violation of the National Constitution and Bylaws, including but not limited to occurrences in any department, chapter, subordinate or auxiliary unit which may impugn the integrity or reputation of the organization. He shall report his recommendations to the National Commander and the National Adjutant. He shall further be subject to implementing regulations of the National Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 012, article VIII, Section 8.3 of the National Bylaws:

Be it resolved, That Article VIII, Section 8.3, be amended by striking out the entire section and substituting the following:

The State Department shall elect a Commander, a Senior Vice Commander, one or more Junior Vice Commanders, and shall elect or appoint an Adjutant, a Treasurer, and a Department Inspector. It may elect or appoint such other officers as may be provided by its constitution and bylaws.

Resolution No. 014, if you noticed, I bypassed 13. No. 13 was rejected.

No. 14: Article XIV, Section 14.10, Paragraph 2, of the National Bylaws.

Be it resolved, That Article XIV, Section 14.10, Paragraph 2 be amended to read as follows:

Paragraph 2: Departments and Chapters shall secure additional or other coverage from local sources at their own expense in the event their assets, other than real property, exceed $10,000. Such coverage shall be in the amount of the excess.

Resolution No. 015, resolution to amend Article XIV, Section 14.11, Paragrpah 1, of the National Bylaws.

Be it resolved, That Article XIV, Section 14.11, Paragrpah 1, be amended as follows:

Paragraph 1: National Officers whose duties require their attendance at official meetings of the Organization or in the conduct of offical business of the Organization, as may be authorized by the National Commander or the National Adjutant, shall be paid travel and per diem expenses as determined by the National Finance Committee.

Resolution No. 016, article XV. Section 15.3 of the National Bylaws.

Be it resolved, That Article XV, Section 15.3, be amended to add new paragraphs 10 and 11 (and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly) as follows:

Paragraph 10: The National Executive Committee shall not approve a contract in which administration and costs of fund-raising exceed percentages established as guidelines by accepted federal, state, advisory, and/or other regulatory agencies, except for contracts, the nature of which do not lend themselves to an assessment of promotional or fund-raising costs, and which are regulated by the National Finance Committee under Section 15.7 herein.

Paragraph 11: A substantial portion of the net monies raised from all fund-raising projects herein shall be required to be devoted, within a reasonable time, to the cause or program for which they were raised.

Resolution No. 017, article XVI, Section 16.1 of the National Bylaws.

Be it resolved, That Article XVI, Section 16.1 be amended by addition a new Paragraph 3, and retaining and renumbering the remaining paragraphs thereof:

Paragraph 3: The member subject to the penalties which may be imposed under Paragraph 1 or 2 above shall be advised by Registered Mail of the intent to impose such penalty, and the cause therefor. The member shall have 30 days from receipt of such advice within which to request a hearing before the Department Executive Committee in the instance of a suspension under Paragraph 1, or the National Executive Committee in the instance of a suspension under Paragraph 2. In the event of a hearing, the findings of the Executive Committee shall be final subject to Paragraph 5 of this Article. In the absence of a request for hearing, the Commander may impose the penalty.

Resolution No. 018, article XVII, Section 17.1 of the Bylaws.

Be it resolved, That Article XVII, Section 17.1 be amended to add a new paragraph as follows:

Paragraph 5: The names and addresses of the members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, in whatever format, shall not be used for commerical purposes, in support of any political action committee, or for any other political use. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit their use in fund-raising as permitted in these Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution No. 019, article XVIII, section 17.2, Paragraph 2 of the National Bylaws.

Be it resolved, That Article XVII, Section 17.2, be amended to omit Paragraph 2.

This next one is the resolution that I said would be a recommendation from the Interim Committee to the Convention Bylaws Committe and to you people it is Resolution No. 20.

Resolution No. 020:

Be it resolved, That the Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee is authorized and directed to make grammatical and technical corrections to the National Bylaws, including the addition of an Index. In no event shall this Resolution be interpreted to permit substantive changes of any kind.

That's the end of my report. These will be printed and we hope they will be ready by 9:00 tomorrow morning and we will vote on them at approximately 10:30 tomorrow morning.

If you have any questions, I will be around in the hall. Feel free to come up an ask me about any proposed changes. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Please rise. I will ask Chaplain Devine to lead us in prayer.

Chaplain **Devine**. Let us pray.

Bless us, oh Lord. Return our POWs and MIAs. Comfort and heal the wounds of their families. Help us to appropriately use the technology spoken of here on this platform as a tool discovered and manifested out of Your created love for we, Your children.

Continue to bless our leadership and membership of the DAV and the VA. Help us to enhance our skills as we serve You in serving others. Teach us to accept and to share Your love and reconciliation. Finally, bless our benefactors from wherever they emerge. Amen.

Commander **Colley**. This convention stands in recess until 1:00 p.m., sharp, this afternoon.

[Whereupon the convention recessed at 11:30 a.m.]

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

July 22, 1985

The Monday afternoon session of the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 22, 1985, and was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Commander Chad Colley.

Commander **Chad Colley**. The convention will please come to order. Please stand for the proper rendering of respect to the flag. By the numbers, hand salute.

[Salute to flag.]

Chaplain, will you please open us with prayer.

Chaplain Father **Patrick Devine**. Let us pray.

Our Father, bless us here this afternoon. May our hearts be open to the breath of Your Holy Spirit. May our eyes be open to see and read Your signs. May our ears hear Your voice that we may receive Your faith and life to guide and instruct us. And may we have the courage to act on Your loving commands. Amen.

Commander **Colley**. Please be seated. Of great concern to the DAV are the 2,500 men who continue to be listed as missing in action in Vietnam. All of us can sympathize with the pain, the grief and the torment felt by each of those 2,500 families who still wait to learn the fate of their loved ones. And so it is still the DAV resolve to have the Vietnamese government account for each and every one of these brave individuals.

We have with us today Mary Louise Scott from the National League of POW/MIA Families. Ms. Scott joined the National League of Families as office manager in 1983 and was appointed Communications Director in September 1984. Her advertising and public relations background guides her in keeping the plight of these American families before the American public.

Although she, herself, does not have a member of her family among the American soldiers missing, she does come from a family of naval aviators and does comprehend the pain of families that the league serves.

Gentleman, ladies, delegates, will you please join me in welcoming Ms. Mary Louise Scott. [Applause.]

Mary Louise Scott [National League of POW/MIA Families]. Thank you very much.

I am really happy to be here, very honored to be able to address such a very distinguished convention and to see from all the people that were out walking around and in here, it's obviously going to be a very successful convention.

Yesterday, the 16th annual meeting of the National League of Families convened, so I feel very much at home. It was very successful and it was the largest assembly of families, veterans groups, concerned citizens and other POW/MIA organizations since 1973 and we were pleased to see such an outstanding attendance.

Throughout the meeting the media kept asking me one particular question and that was, why are we seeing such an increase in participating, not only within the league, but also within the media, within veterans organizations and within civic organizations throughout the country?

Certainly this increase in participation by all involved in the POW/MIA issue is no accident, and that's what I told them and they seemed surprised. But I also told them that what we are seeing is the direct result of the U.S. Government's strategy which was adopted and put into effect in early 1982. This strategy includes a very close cooperation with the League of Families because the league is the only organization that is solely made up of family members who have men that are still missing from the Vietnam war.

A second important element of the strategy was suggested by the league and then adopted by the government, and that was the implementation of a nationwide public awareness campaign. Responsible public awareness is of critical importance in the overall strategy to resolve this issue and it is the primary focus of the League of Families. It is also the area which needs the most direct support from the family members and the veterans' organizations as well as with the media.

We know that the Indochinese governments are very responsive to American public opinion and they have stated their willingness to cooperate with the United States based on the increase of interest in the American people. This was directly relayed to us in 1984 through a communique, where for the first time the Vietnamese stated in a policy document their willingness to cooperate with the United States because of the increase in American interest on the POW/MIA issue.

Recently, the Vietnamese have announced their intention to turn over the remains of 26 missing Americans as well as to give us information on 6 others. As well, a public commitment from Vietnam was received which expressed their willingness to resolve the issue within the next two years. Certainly, these announcements are breakthrough results and are very positive signals that the Vietnamese increasingly realize that they can really end the war and improve the atmosphere between our two countries by seriously working to resolve this issue.

The league was very fortunate at our meeting to be able to have Vice President Bush and National Security Advisor Robert McFarland address our organization. Vice President Bush, speaking to the members on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which was

July 19th this year, spoke for himself and for President Reagan when he reiterated the high national priority placed on the POW/MIA issue by this administration. Most important was his emphasis that top priority means that the administration does not rule out the possibility that Americans are still alive and being held captive in Indochina. In fact, the U.S. Government works under this assumption, that at least some Americans are still being held captive.

During his remarks, Vice President Bush made a surprising and very welcome announcement, that the Lao government has recently agreed to the excavation of a second crash site and we are hoping it will be scheduled in the next dry season. As well, the Lao have agreed to visit the JCRC research centers in Hawaii, and we are very pleased on both of those announcements. We certainly welcome them as developments and appreciate the cooperation of the Lao government and this concrete demonstration of their intention to continue their cooperation to help resolve the issue, and hopefully within two years.

It seems that the long and hard work of our families and our involved veterans and concerned citizens is finally paying off and we should all feel a very good sense of accomplishment with that. It has been a tough road and more challenges do lie ahead of us, but we won't falter and we will all work together.

Our appreciation certainly is extended to all who have supported the league and the U.S. Government efforts to move this issue towards a final resolution. The Disabled American Veterans has lent fine support to our organization and to our important cause. We will always be grateful for that support. It's very appreciated and very much needed.

Your POW/MIA committees and their emphasis on educating America on this national issue and the information that is distributed throughout DAV offices throughout the country is an assistance which we find invaluable. To know that we have the support and the concern of such a fine and distinguished organization is truly inspiring for us and we hope to continue this wonderful relationship. We hope and I'm sure we will continue to work on this important issue together to work for its resolve.

You can help, as I'm sure you know, by contacting your local POW/MIA Chairman, by writing to the League of Families and requesting to be put on our mailing list so that you can receive updates on the issue, which we do put out quite frequently, and by writing to the Vietnamese government to let them know that the POW/MIA issue is a national concern and it's one which America will not allow to go unresolved.

You can write to President Reagan and to your Congressmen and express your support for the current high priority emphasis that is now being placed on the issue, something that we didn't see before the Reagan administration. Your input does count and you are heard, so it's important that all of us write and express our feelings.

But most importantly, I wanted to come and express the appreciation of all of the League of Families for your work, and I thank you on behalf of George Brooks, who is our Chairman of the Board, Ann Mills Griffiths, who is our Executive Director, and from all of the families. You untiring efforts and your continuous and responsible support of this high-priority issue demonstrates the unity of this nation to finally resolve this national issue and to institutionalize the concept of vigorous efforts to account for any of our men that may be lost in future conflicts.

I and the League of Families salute you for your past efforts and we thank you for your current efforts and we certainly hope for your support in the future.

I wish you continuing success with your convention and again thank you for the honor of addressing such a fine organization. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander Colley. Mary Louise, we certainly appreciate you coming and you know that our heart-felt sympathies and encouragement and our assistance will always be yours on behalf of the League.

I was privileged to represent this organization on the 19th at POW/MIA Day out at the memorial by the Superdome and I felt very, very proud to have done that. It was a grand occasion, calling attention to the plight that we certainly need to resolve. Thank you.

Now comes another thing that I tell you it delights me to do. Yesterday at our opening celebration we talked about the fact that our organization's fantastic membership strides during the past year were phenomenal. As emphasized in my report, we really did it. Thousands of members as well as Chapters and Departments made this feat possible. But, like always, there is one individual who will outshine the efforts of anyone and everyone and during this past year that man was Bill "Preacher" Dill of Chapter Number One in Houston, Texas. He has been named the DAV Recruiter of the Year based on his remarkable accomplishment of sighing up—are you ready for this—239 members in one year. [Applause.]

You are going to read all about Bill in the August edition of the magazine, which will be there about the time you get home, I guess. But there is on thing for sure, it just points out you cannot keep a good man down, not even after suffering wounds while he was storming the beaches at Anzio during World War II. His strong-willed grit has kept him recruiting DAV members for more than 40 years. Bill says that he gives God the credit for keeping his able to do so and God willing, he is going to go right on recruiting as long as he is able. While some are content to flop around like chickens with their heads down, there is one guy that soars like an eagle this year and that's Bill "Preacher" Dill. Come here, Bill. [Applause.]

For such a high-flying performance, what better could be the symbol of that than this Soaring Eagle. Thank you Preacher Dill. [Applause.]

Mr. Bill "Preacher" Dill. I want to thank each of you for this award. Without, I wouldn't be here. But when I was between the lines and digging in, and the one I want to thank most of all for being here, I remember what Momma said. She said, "You are going to hell because you don't have Jesus as your savior," and I didn't pay her no attention. But then between the lines I said this, I won't ever forget it, and some of you have probably said something on the same order, I said, "Oh God, whoever you are, wherever you are, help me."

And my mother—she weighed 250 pounds and pulled me on a cotton sack over here at East Texas cotton mills; when she died she weighed 70 pounds; with one leg off—she could still whip me. Nobody else could. [Laughter.]

But anyhow, I thanked God. And I wanted to meet this man Chad Colley. I didn't know him from Adam's off ox. I knew Denvel Adams and the man they called him Mr. DAV, I didn't recognize who he was. I want to shake your hand right now. [Laughter.] Man, this man, John Charlton—I can't help but shed tears when I'm talking about these guys. They have got sympathy for you. I mean, they understand that you need help.

I didn't know what to do and didn't care. All I intend to do is preach the gospel as long as I live. I've been preaching for 31 years and, like I told them, I don't give a damn who likes it or not, I'm going to keep on preaching. [Laughter.]

But it might be some of you that carried my stretcher when they were bombing on the beachhead and I didn't know who they were, but I thank God for all of you. Every disabled veteran, we have got something in common and we need help and the help has got to come from one another.

And by this man writing me and saying, "R.E., you go down and sign up George, living a couple of streets down," and I went down to see George and George was gone; I went another time, he was gone; I went the third time and he was gone. I rubbed the man's name out and put down John, or whoever, and I got this little thing that he didn't—and anyhow, I got the medal. But I'm going to keep on signing up members.

But thank God for Commander Chad Colley, John Charlton, and Mr. DAV, Denvel Adams. I love all of you. And our State Commander, J.D. Forrest, and Dick Sarrazin, the Judge Advocate down there, and Harry Burgman. I can't keep—I can just keep on talking. But let me tell you, they are men of their word. Every man I have met in leadership of the DAV has kept his word, and I thank God for you. Thank you for this, and may the Lord bless each of you. [Applause.]

Mr. FORREST. Commander Colley.

Commander COLLEY. I recognize J.D. Forrest, wherever he is. [Laughter.]

J.D. FOREST [Commander, State of Texas]. Gentlemen, I am J.D. Forrest. I have the privilege of being the Commander of the great State of Texas, and I'm privileged to have such a man as Preacher Dill. You need to know him like we do. I would like for the great State of Texas delegation to stand up and tell him what we think about what he did to contribute to this one million strong. [Applause.]

Mr. DILL. Thank you, Chad.

I almost let this slip, which I would have cried all year if I didn't say this: Our Commander, Ernest Massey, and his lovely wife, they are just wonderful, the Chaplain, also his son, and thank God for them or else it wouldn't be possible. Thank you, Commander Massey. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Up in Arkansas, if he came and he preached like a recruiter, we'd say you'd better eat you a large breakfast because you're going to be there all day. [Laughter.]

Now I would like to introduce Ron Drach, National Employment Director, for the purpose of presenting the Employment Awards.

Ron Drach [National Employment Director]. Thank you, Commander Colley.

Before I introduce our recipients, if Mr. Ralph Willig or a representative of the Bendix Friction Materials is in the audience, would he or she please come forward and have a seat over here?

National Commander Colley, National Officers, distinguished guests, delegates, and members and friends of the DAV. It is my pleasure as your National Employment Director to introduce to you the recipients of the National Commander's Employment Awards for 1985.

The first category is that of the Local Veterans Employment Representative. The individual we honor today is employed at the Covington Office of the Kentucky Department for Employment Services. He works in an office where they consistently exceed state and federal standards for services to veterans. Our awardee has initiated several unique and different programs to help solve the problems of unemployed veterans.

Last year this local veterans employment representative received a grant from the Department of Labor and from that grant he produced three television and three radio commercials highlighting the benefits of hiring veterans. A campaign kicking off this program was held at a monthly meeting of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. More than 500 area employers were able to be there and get this information firsthand. With the cooperation of local cable television companies, a weekly half hour TV program was developed and called For Veterans Only. The program has subsequently been syndicated to three cable systems in Kentucky and one Ohio cable system has put the program on one of its local access channels.

Additionally, he has developed outreach programs to local veterans' groups to help address the problems that many veterans are confronted with in obtaining suitable employment. He has organized a group called the Northern Kentucky Veterans Employment Council, specifically to obtain information and insight from representatives of area veterans' organizations. His efforts have also resulted in preference given to veterans by many of Northern Kentucky's private employers.

What is somewhat amazing to me about all this is that this individual is not a veteran and yet he takes all these extra efforts to help us out.

National Commander Colley, it is my distinct pleasure to present to you the 1985 outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative, James P. Clay from Covington, Kentucky. [Applause.]

Mr. **James P. Clay**. Commander Colley, distinguished members of the Disabled American Veterans. I am somewhat is awe of standing here today in what I consider to be the most prestigious group of people in the world, and that is you, the Disabled American Veterans, and I would like to express to you my sincere appreciation and gratitude for this award which I will treasure for the rest of my life.

What I would like to ask even more of you, for this opportunity to address you for a couple of minutes, is to do me one big favor. As you know, during the past two years we have been able to work with the emergency veterans jobs training programs which was passed by the Congress in 1983. This was a job training program for Vietnam and Korean war veterans which has probably been a godsend for many veterans, particularly in Kentucky. We have been able to place many disabled veterans through this program which pays employers up to 15 months of half of their salaries to train them for new jobs and I am sure most of you know that this program is about due to expire.

However, there is a bill in the Senate now, House Bill 1408, which will extend the emergency veterans jobs training program through July 1st of next year and reopen the application date for veterans to apply to use this program through the end of this year. We need this program very much. We have many more disabled veterans who need this job training program and we are finding employers amazingly receptive to it.

I would urge you when you go home to call your United States Senator in your state and tell them that you want that bill out of the Senate committee and put on the Senate floor and passed so we can put the rest of our unemployed disabled American veterans back to work.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **Drach**. Thanks for that request, Jim.

The Employment Committee did adopt a resolution this morning along those lines and you will have an opportunity to vote on that resolution a little bit later.

In accordance with the rules of the program, we also recognize the office in which the outstanding Local VER is employed. We decided to do this several years ago because we realized without the total support and effort of everyone in the office, many times the LVER would not be able to get out and do some of the things that they are able to do.

Here to accept the award on behalf of the entire office staff of the Covington, Kentucky, office is Ms. Lee Cordray, the local office manager. [Applause.]

Ms. **Lee Cordray**. Commander, officers and members of the Disabled American Veterans and guests.

It is indeed an honor for me to accept this plaque on behalf of the employment service personnel, the veterans' representatives, Jim Clay in particular, and all of our disabled veteran outreach workers that are faithful, committed and dedicated to serving all veterans and especially the disabled American veterans.

I accept this in their behalf, all of the interviewers on the staff who have made this possible, and I especially want to thank all of our federal, regional and state personnel who have been so supportive, and especially our state representative in Kentucky, John Cryder, who is here with us today giving his support. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **Drach**. Our next recipient is the Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Person. As you may recall, several years ago the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, commonly referred to as DVOP, was established as an administrative effort to assist disabled and Vietnam era veterans. In 1980 the program became a permanent part of Title 38, U.S. Code. At the outset of the program we decided to establish a National Commander's Award for the person employed under DVOP.

The competition for this award, as well as all of the other employment awards, was very competitive and it was very difficult for the judges to choose among the many fine candidates.

This individual was selected in part for his outstanding outreach efforts which takes him looking for unemployed veterans rather than waiting for them to come to him for assistance in their job search. One innovative program he has established involves veteran ex-offenders who must find employment within 60 days or face return to prison. These are honorably discharged veterans and many of them are service-connected disabled veterans.

Other unique initiatives included the establishment of training classes for veterans who plan to take the postal service examination, providing employment information to recently discharged service-connected disabled veterans and traveling throughout the state to help set up job training programs for participants in the VA's vocational rehabilitation program.

He has also been recognized as the individual who signed up the first employer in the nation under the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act and for making the first veteran-employer match which resulted in employment for a Vietnam era veteran.

This individual's commitment goes beyond his office. He works very closely during his off hours with the National League of POW/MIA Families conducting awareness campaigns on behalf of those still missing in Southeast Asia as a result of the war in Vietnam. In that capacity, he is the Chairman of the DAV's Department of Ohio's POW/MIA Committee. He is a life member of DAV Chapter 96 in Chardon, Ohio, and it is my distinct pleasure to present to you, Mr. Ralph Pietro from the local office in Cleveland, Ohio. [Applause.]

Mr. Ralph Pietro. You don't know how hard I have worked on this. [Laughter.]

National Commander Colley and officers, National Headquarters staff, honored guests and comrades of the Disabled American Veterans.

I am very proud to be here at the 64th Annual Convention to receive this award. I started with the Bureau of Employment Services two and a half years ago. I received in-house training before moving on to be out-stationed with the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Cleveland, Ohio, where I received extensive training in vocational rehabilitation and veterans' benefits under Title 38 of the U.S. Code.

I, myself, had been unemployed prior to getting this job. Remembering what it was like to be unemployed, the frustrations and the pressures, to find work, pay bills and try and feed a family. Some of our main duties are to the Chapter 31 veterans under vocational rehabilitation, the disabled veterans. We try and help set up individual employability plans to get them started, to mainstream them back into the work forces and to go on their own.

Any office where I am located, there are two other disabled veterans outreach specialists there. We work as a team just as each and every one of you work as a team within your chapters and departments and on various levels.

I also work very close with our NSOs out of the Cleveland office there. They make referrals up to me and I make down to them. If I find out a man is eligible, sign him up. Maybe they can help get his claim going. That's part of the team. It's something that we have that other people can't understand. It's a commaraderie and a brotherhood between us because we have been there. We know what it's like to be a disabled veteran. If no one helps us, then we can't help ourselves.

My manager, Mr. Julius West, he is a veteran himself. On numerous occasions he used to make the comment to us, do what you have to do. You know your job and you know what is needed. He has given us free reign to do as we see fit to work with our disabled vets.

At this time, Commander Colley, in closing I would like to quote Charles Dickens, a line from one of his classics, "The Chirstmas Carol." "God bless each and every one of us."

Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. DRACH. This is the first year that we have done this next award, but it's in keeping with our policy of recognizing the local office. We did it with the Local VER for a number of years and we decided that we should do the same thing with the local office of the DVOP. So this will be the first time we have done this and we are very pleased to be able to do that for the first time this year. Here to accept the National Commander's Award on behalf of the Cleveland, Ohio, office is Mr. Julius West, the office manager. [Applause.]

Mr. JULIUS WEST. Commander, officers, members of the DAV, the Auxiliary, ladies and gentlemen.

This button that I have on says "It's hard to be humble if you are from Ohio." [Laughter, applause and cheers.] So in spite of the difficulty that I'm experiencing right now, it is with a great deal of humility, appreciation and pride that I accept this award on behalf of all of the people of the greatest State of Ohio and especially the staff of the downtown Cleveland ES Office of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

We are very grateful, thank you, and may God bless you. [Applause.]

Mr. DRACH. The winner of the Large Employer Award also comes from Cleveland, but Cleveland, Tennessee, not Cleveland, Ohio. This year the large employer was selected for their outstanding efforts of employing and retaining in employment qualified veterans, especially disabled veterans.

Almost 25 percent of the total employees are veterans and almost 30 percent of those are service-connected disabled veterans. This is indeed impressive when you consider that of the total veteran population, only about 8 percent are disabled veterans. This firm places special emphasis on hiring disabled veterans as well as other handicapped persons. This is certainly evidenced by the high percentage of disabled veterans employed there.

According to the company's employee relations manager, they believe hiring disabled veterans in just a good policy. He explained, "In most cases a handicapped employee will more than compensate for a physical handicap with a strong desire to do a good job." This certainly epitomizes the policy of the Disabled American Veterans as it relates to hiring disabled veterans, which is one that urges employment of disabled veterans for their ability and not their disability.

This employer has been recognized in the past for hiring veterans, disabled veterans and handicapped people. They are located in Cleveland, Tennessee, and here to accept the award on behalf of the Bendix Friction Materials Division of Allied Automotive is Ralph G. Willig, Manager, Employee Relations. [Applause.]

Mr. RALPH G. WILLIG. This is indeed an honor and a pleasure to be here. We were in Memphis, Tennessee, last month, about 30 days ago, to receive this same award from the great State of Tennessee. This is the icing on the cake.

As was mentioned, we do believe it is to our advantage to hire disabled veterans. I'm not a veteran myself because of a handicap that I was born with, so I can relate to those of you. I feel very strongly that a handicapped person will more than compensate for their handicap with a desire to do a good job.

Our experience has shown that the employment of veterans has been rewarding in that we have gotten mature, dedicated, sincere employees who believe in the work ethic. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. DRACH. Regrettably, a representative from the Small Employer is not able to be with us and arrangements are being made for a presentations at a late date. However, we would like to announce for the record the winner of the Small Employer is the Dynamic Security Incorporated Company in Anniston, Alabama.

Ninety percent of the total employees are veterans and more than half of those individuals are service-connected disabled veterans. We are pleased to announce their selection and, as I said, the National Commander's plaque will be presented to a representative of the company at a later date.

That concludes the presentations and thank you all very much for your attention. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. I would now like to call on John W. "Jack" Peluse, Chairman of the Finance Committee for his report.

Mr. JOHN W. PELUSE [Finance Committee Chairman]. National Commander, distinguished guests and members of the Disabled American Veterans.

I am very pleased to report that this past year has been another great financial year in our organization. I will begin my report by first introducing the members of my committee, who are as follows: There is John Wiedeman of Colorado, Cleveland Jordan of Washington, D.C., Billy E. Kirby of Texas, and last, but by far not least, our National Commander, Chad Colley of Arkansas, who chose to reside in Washington, D.C., this past year in order to be more able to serve our organization.

During 1984 the organization spent from its unrestricted operating fund 57.4 percent of all the contributions and revenue received from the public in support of our service programs.

Since the inception of the Emergency Relief Fund on January 1, 1973, a total of $6,664,441 has been granted to 40,466 relief fund applicants across the country by our National Service Officers. In 1984 alone a total of $733,727 in emergency relief grants was given to 3,770 needy applicants. This year the National Finance Committee appropriated an additional $1 million to this fund.

Since 1968, the DAV has granted $1,466,343 in disaster assistance to 2,901 applicants. In 1984 the total granted from the disaster fund was $34,370.

$3,836,145 in college scholarship funds has been awarded from the DAV scholarship program to the deserving children of service-connected disabled veterans since the inception of this program in 1968. $386,138 was awarded to 207 students in 1984.

The National Finance Committee approved a $1 million contribution to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. This is for the improvement of the accessibility of the statue itself and the embarkation facilities at Ellis Island to the handicapped visitors.

In order to carry out the Disabled American Veterans responsibilities to our nation's disabled veterans and their families, we maintain a staff of 260 National Service Officers, including trainees. As of June 1, 1985 I am proud to report that 94 percent of these dedicated NSOs are Vietnam veterans. This is only possible because of a generous American public who support our programs with their contributions.

The vitality and stability of the Disabled American Veterans organization was clearly evident when the National Finance Committee considered the proposed budget for 1986 which provides for continued growth of DAV service programs by allocating more that $31 million to service costs and expenses in 1986. This is an increase of $2.1 million over the 1985 budget.

I am pleased to report that the Life Membership Fund balance as of December 31, 1984, was $48,143,044. That was an increase of $7,987,644 over 1983 [applause] and that number of life memberships increased during this period from 475,470 to 563,630. [Applause.]

As I stated earlier in my report, 1984 was a record financial year for the Disabled American Veterans. Total support and revenue for 1984 was $45,318,085. This was an increase of $4.3 million over 1983. As of December 31, 1984, the expenditures for program services totaled $26,033,810 and for the same period the undesignated operating fund of the organization totaled $42,777,156. This was an increase of $5.1 million over 1983. The overall picture shows that this has been a great financial year and our organization is in excellent financial condition.

In conclusion, you can be proud of the achievements of our national organization under the guidance of our National Adjutant Denvel D. Adams, and we would like to commend him and his staff for the support and cooperation they rendered to this committee during the past year. And I thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. You have heard the report of the Finance Committee Chairman. What is your pleasure?

Mike Two, you are recognized.

Mr. **Don Pouliot**. Don Pouliot, Vice Commander Department of California, moves that this fine report which tells us we are financially healthy be accepted.

Mr. **Bill Slacum**. Comrade Commander.

Commander **Colley**. Mike Three.

Mr. **Slacum**. Bill Slacum, NEC District 4, seconds the motion.

Commander **Colley**. You have a motion and second to accept the report of the Finance Committee by its Chairman. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

[The above-mentioned report follows:]

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984, AND OPINION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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OPINION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Cincinnati, OH, *March 5, 1985.*

National Finance Committee,
Disabled American Veterans,
National Headquarters.

We have examined the financial statements of Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters (DAV), for the year ended December 31, 1984, listed in the foregoing table of contents. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

As described in Note 8 to the financial statements, DAV has received a report of examination claiming income tax deficiencies for the years 1974 through 1979. DAV has filed a protest to the claimed deficiencies with the Appeals Office of the Internal Revenue Service. The outcome of the appeal of the report of examination for 1974 through 1979, or any additional assessments that may be proposed for years after 1979, is not presently determinable.

In our opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required, had the outcome of the uncertainty referred to in the preceding paragraph been known, the financial statements listed in the table of contents present fairly the financial position of Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters, at December 31, 1984, and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

EXHIBIT A

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1984 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983

	1984	1983
ASSETS		
Unrestricted operating and designated funds:		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalent	$634,144	$1,133,920

EXHIBIT A—Continued

	1984	1983
U.S. Government securities—at cost (approximates market)	6,360,900	5,286,290
Accounts receivable	886,337	639,415
Interest and dividends receivable	935,184	759,521
Refundable income taxes and interest (note 9)	2,582,922	2,422,000
Inventories (note 2)	1,159,106	1,741,127
Prepaid expenses	956,597	851,687
Prepaid pension expenses (note 5)	3,296,004	1,928,392
Total current assets	16,811,194	14,762,352
Investments in securities—at cost (approximate market value: 1984, $43,609,440; 1983, $37,663,000) (note 2)	39,831,328	35,802,899
Total unrestricted operating and designated funds	56,642,522	50,565,251
Fixed assets fund (note 2):		
Land held for sale	69,538	69,538
Land, buildings and equipment (less accumulated depreciation: 1984, $4,171,922; 1983, $3,700,273)	7,119,746	6,960,807
Total fixed assets funds	7,189,284	7,030,345
Restricted life membership fund (note 4):		
Cash	383,439	1,833,007
Accured interest and dividends	932,299	856,455
U.S. Government securities—at cost (approximates market)	4,782,842	4,548,014
Investments in securities—at cost (approximate market value: 1984, $43,679,100; 1983, $33,472,000) (note 2)	42,044,464	33,007,924
Total restricted life membership fund	48,143,044	40,245,400
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted operating and designated funds:		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	564,896	875,984
Accrued expenses:		
Salaries	695,535	610,860
Vacation pay and sick pay	7,019,675	6,401,091
Other	52,600	54,265
Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance, and so forth	2,518,408	1,619,125
Total current liabilities	10,851,114	9,561,325
Operating and designated funds:		
Undesignated operating fund available for general activities	42,777,156	37,668,320
Designated by the National Finance Committee for (note 3):		
Scholarships	682,163	1,220,633
Emergency relief	1,121,690	818,189
Disaster relief	1,164,219	1,252,940
Health services	46,180	43,844
Total	45,791,408	41,003,326
Total unrestricted operating and designated funds	56,642,522	50,565,251
Fixed assets fund—Fund balance	7,189,284	7,030,345
Total fixed assets fund	7,189,284	7,030,345
Restricted life membership fund:		
Accounts payable	43,202	38,514
Reserve for future distribution of membership dues (note 4)	48,099,842	40,206,886
Total restricted membership fund	48,143,044	40,245,400

See notes to financial statements.

EXHIBIT B

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 1984 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983

	Unrestricted operating and designated funds	Fixed assets fund	Total all funds	
			1984	1983
Support and revenue:				
Support:				
Contributions and revenue received from direct mail solicitations, et cetera	$35,652,830		$35,652,830	$33,734,629
Donations and bequests	497,602		497,602	169,698
Total support	36,150,432		36,150,432	33,904,327
Revenue:				
Membership dues and fees (Note 4)	4,175,905		4,175,905	3,194,447
Income from investments (principally interest)	4,784,274		4,784,274	3,719,743
Sale of emblems, et cetera, less related direct costs (1984, $911,266; 1983, $775,337)	119,722		119,722	79,244
Subscription revenue	20,939		20,939	20,806
Miscellaneous	66,813		66,813	61,427
Total revenue	9,167,653		9,167,653	7,075,667
Total support and revenue	45,318,085		45,318,085	40,979,994
Expenses (exhibit C):				
Program services:				
Maintenance of Staff of National Service Officers	18,124,530	$233,308	18,357,838	17,995,345
Publications and other communications	3,220,067	13,149	3,233,216	2,832,256
Membership services	3,047,587	73,815	3,121,402	2,494,992
Other	1,321,354		1,321,354	2,438,973
Total program services	25,713,538	320,272	26,033,810	25,761,566
Supporting services:				
Fund raising costs	12,083,245	109,223	12,192,468	11,236,037
Administrative and general expenses	2,105,784	39,602	2,145,386	2,061,293
Total supporting services	14,189,029	148,825	14,337,854	13,297,330
Total expenses	39,902,567	469,097	40,371,664	39,058,896
Excess of public support and revenue over expenses	5,415,518	(469,097)		
Fund balance, beginning of year	41,003,926	7,030,345		
Other change in fund balance—Fixed assets purchased by Unrestricted Operating Fund—net of retirements	(628,036)	628,036		
Fund balance, end of year	45,791,408	7,189,284		

See notes to financial statements.

EXHIBIT C

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR DEC. 31, 1984, WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983

	Program services					Supporting services			Total expenses	
	Maintenance of staff of national service officers	Publications and other communications	Membership services	Other	Total	Fund raising costs	Administrative and general expenses	Total	1984	1983
Salaries	$11,348,672	$306,709	$1,210,187		$12,865,568	$2,928,975	$1,122,807	$4,051,782	$16,917,350	$16,122,954
Employee benefits (note 5)	3,109,396	64,987	292,754		3,467,137	937,502	393,206	1,330,708	4,797,845	5,180,635
Disbursements for scholarship, disaster, and relief purposes, etc				$1,321,354	1,321,354				1,321,354	1,408,973
Grants to other organizations (note 7)	10,000				10,000				10,000	1,035,000
Expenses of National Convention	273,748				273,748				273,748	279,676
Expenses of National Commander and Staff	314,058				314,058				314,058	319,789
Payroll taxes	844,372	19,995	110,553		974,920	396,413	96,912	493,325	1,468,245	1,367,448
Travel expenses—Field Service Units and others	790,238	46,115	38,781		875,134	32,092	63,982	96,074	971,208	906,844
Postage	252,893	623,715	313,138		1,189,746	1,466,537	15,111	1,481,648	2,671,394	2,416,749
Rental of space and equipment	25,535		21,352		46,887	49,470	11,366	60,836	107,723	103,784
Supplies	261,582	15,537	408,564		685,683	114,819	(291)	114,528	800,211	600,709
Relocation of personnel	38,359	3,942	4,866		47,167				47,176	74,215
Expenses of national officials at state conventions	63,027				.63,027				63,027	48,845
Insurance	75,330	1,448	8,869		85,647	24,553	12,873	37,426	123,073	137,391
Telephone and telegraph	40,813	2,115	6,818		49,746	12,506	24,633	37,139	86,885	79,720
Maintenance and repairs	91,260	14,790	61,281		167,331	114,854	50,118	164,972	332,303	301,939
Express and hauling	20,701	7,085	9,621		37,407	45,219	2,871	48,090	85,497	56,774
Outside service—labor	6,574		1,300		7,874				7,874	5,799
Project cost	217,562	216,003	370,172		803,737		105	105	803,842	621,802
Printing of magazine		1,843,629			1,843,629				1,843,629	1,547,335
Commissions						435,216		435,216	435,216	377,059
Cost of solicitation mailings—materials						4,858,360		4,858,360	4,858,360	4,370,316
Awards		1,114	72,103		73,217				73,217	96,681
Heat, light, water, and power	126,802		94,392		221,194	151,406	22,467	173,873	395,067	387,285
Security service	55,257		11,240		66,497	131,176	1,873	133,049	199,546	194,021
Professional fees	860				860		239,410	239,410	240,270	189,974
Dues and subscriptions	40,053	9,410	863		50,326	7,065	16,962	24,027	74,353	38,591
Other	117,438	43,473	10,733		171,644	20,975	31,379	52,354	223,998	187,950

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Decrease in labor and overhead costs in inventory						356,107		356,107	356,107	(30,869)
Total expenses before depreciation	18,124,530	3,220,067	3,047,587	1,321,354	25,713,538	12,083,245	2,105,784	14,189,092	39,902,567	38,627,389
Depreciation of fixed assets (note 2)	233,308	13,149	73,815		320,272	109,223	39,602	148,825	469,097	431,507
Total, year ended Dec. 31, 1984	18,357,838	3,233,216	3,121,402	1,321,354	26,033,810	12,192,468	2,145,386	14,337,854	40,371,664	
Total, year ended Dec. 31, 1983	17,995,345	2,832,256	2,494,992	2,438,973	25,761,566	11,236,037	2,061,293	13,297,330		39,058,896

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, DECEMBER 31, 1984

1. Organization

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally Chartered, not-for-profit service organization specifically organized to provide for the rehabilitation and continuing welfare of the Nation's disabled veterans, their families, dependents, and survivors. DAV's principal program (social) service activities are:

Maintenance of national service officers in all Veterans Administration Regional and Contact Offices to assist veterans in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled under law

Identification of veterans eligible for assistance and referral of such veterans to DAV service officers

Publication of a monthly magazine and other communications for disabled veterans, in order to provide information regarding veterans' benefits and social activities

Coordination of DAV's state departments and local membership chapters which provide a social environment to aid the veteran in personal and social development.

Maintenance of special and need programs for emergency relief, disaster relief and scholarships to disabled veterans and their dependents

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Financial Statements.—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles contained in the *Audits of Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations* published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Inventories.—Inventories, stated at the lower cost (principally on the first-in, first-out basis) or market, are as follows at December 31, 1984:

Materials and supplies	$435,791
Solicitation materials	723,315
Total	1,159,106

Investments in securities.—Investments in securities, consisting of government and corporate bonds and corporate stocks, are recorded at cost unless management judges that there has been a permanent impairment in value.

Fixed assets fund.—Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, and are comprised of the following at December 31, 1984:

	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net book value
Land held for sale	$69,538		$69,538
Land and improvements	925,555	$236,589	688,966
Buildings and improvements	6,122,839	1,523,017	4,599,822
Machinery and other equipment	4,243,274	2,412,316	1,830,958
Total land, buildings, and machinery, et cetera	11,291,668	4,171,922	7,119,746
Total	11,361,206	4,171,922	7,189,284

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets which range from 3 to 50 years.

3. Designated funds

Certain unrestricted funds have been designated by the National Finance Committee for the following purposes:

Scholarships.—For financial assistance to children of disabled veterans who qualify scholastically and are in need of financial aid.

Emergency relief.—For financial assistance to disabled veterans for emergency health and welfare reasons.

Disaster relief.—For assistance to disabled veterans and their families who have suffered losses resulting from natural disasters.

Health services.—For research of health care provided by the VA hospital system.

4. Restricted life membership fund

Under the bylaws of the DAV, life membership in the organization is available and amounts so paid are required to be placed in a separate life membership fund and invested; the only allowable withdrawals from the fund are amounts required to pay chapter, department, and national per capital dues for life members. Life membership receipts are deferred and recognized as income in the operating fund at the time such dues are transferred to the operating fund from the life membership fund, in accordance with the by-laws.

The following summary represents the changes during 1984 in the reserve for future distribution of membership dues:

Balance, Jan. 1, 1984	$40,206,886
Additions:	
Membership dues received	8,271,122
Earnings on invested fund assets	4,504,538
Total	12,775,660
Distribution of membership dues:	
National Headquarters—Unrestricted operating and designated funds	2,792,881
Local chapters	1,349,772
State Department	740,051
Total	4,882,704
Balance, December 31, 1984	48,099,842

5. Pension plan

DAV has a pension plan covering substantially all of its employees. The normal cost for 1984 of $2,790,387, which includes amortization of prior service cost over the estimated lives of the active participants, as determined under the aggregate cost method, is included in employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses. Additional information with regard to the pension plan as of January 1, 1984, the date of the most recent actuarial valuation, is presented as follows:

Present value of vested accumulated plan benefits	$26,994,975
Present value of non-vested accumulated plan benefits	724,553
Total present value of accumulated plan benefits	27,719,528
Net assets available for benefits	37,099,093
Assumed rates of return in determining actuarial value of vested and nonvested plan benefits:	
Active employees (percent)	7.5
Retired employees (percent)	8.0

The prepaid pension expense in the accompanying unrestricted fund balance sheet represents payments made into the pension plan which will be applied to the normal cost of the plan in future years.

6. Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation

The balance sheet does not include the net assets of the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation (a separate corporation) which are held in trust by the Foundation and available to National Headquarters only by appropriation or dissolution of the Foundation. Based upon financial information (unaudited) at December 31, 1984, net assets of the Foundation were approximately $2,662,000.

7. DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, Inc.

The DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, Inc. was organized to maintain a national Memorial to veterans of the Vietnam conflict. The Memorial is a separate entity from the DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Several members of the DAV Executive Committee serve on the Board of the Memorial. During 1984 and 1983 the DAV provided the Memorial with computer and accounting services and solicitation space in the DAV magazine for which no compensation was received. In addition, during 1983, DAV donated $1,000,000 to the Memorial.

8. Internal Revenue Service Examination

As a result of an examination in 1980, the Internal Revenue Service issued its Report of Examination on April 19, 1982 claiming income tax deficiencies of $1,662,100 for the years 1974 through 1979. DAV filed a protest to the claimed deficiencies with the Appeals Office of the Internal Revenue Service. The matter was than referred by the Appeals Office to the National Office of the Internal Revenue Service for technical advice. As of March 5, 1985, this matter is still pending. There are also indications that additional assessments may be proposed by the Internal Revenue Service for the years 1980 through 1984. The estimated tax could approximate $2,100,000, plus interest, for those years.

Consequently, the amount of any additional tax payments that may be required for 1974 through 1984 are not presently determinable.

9. Refundable income taxes

In 1976, the Internal Revenue Service, as a result of its examination of the years 1970 through 1973, assessed DAV taxes in the amount of $3,510,000 and interest of $757,000. DAV believed there was no tax liability, but as a procedural matter, paid the assessments plus interest and filed for refund. Pursuant to a final judgment, DAV will receive a refund of taxes of $1,060,000 and interest of $1,522,922 through December 31, 1984. The total refund has been recorded as a current asset in the accompanying balance sheet. The difference ($1,845,140) between the amount of the final judgment and the claim for refund of taxes was charged against operations in 1983.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY—FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984 AND OPINION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

CINCINNATI, OH, *February 26, 1985.*

OPINION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE,
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

We have examined the balance sheet of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary as of December 31, 1984 and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in fund balances and of changes in financial position for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary at December 31, 1984 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

DELOITTE HASKINS & SELLS.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1984, WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983

	1984	1983
ASSETS		
Unrestricted operating and designated funds		
Cash (includes certificates of deposit of $200,000 each year)	$595,770	$512,923
Accounts receivable	15,828	5,647
Materials and supplies—at cost (specific identification)	83,154	78,713
Prepaid miscellaneous expenses	2,789	2,605
Total unrestricted operating and designated funds	697,541	599,888
Restricted funds (note 4):		
Life membership fund:		
Cash		396
Investments in securities—at cost (approximate market value: 1984, $2,596,394; 1983, $2,067,200) (note 2)	2,510,689	2,034,764
Accounts receivable:		
Operating Fund	98,647	135,716

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1984, WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983—Continued

	1984	1983
Other	61,530	28,519
Total Life Membership Fund	2,670,866	2,199,395
Education loan fund:		
Cash (includes money market certificates: 1984, $117,084; 1983, $115,000)	156,757	142,848
Accounts receivable—Operating Fund	31,140	7,570
Notes receivable (less allowance for doubtful notes of $7,500 in each year)	161,685	145,459
Total Education Loan Fund	349,582	295,877
Total restricted funds	3,020,448	2,495,272
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable:		
National Headquarters, DAV	86,563	78,269
Life Membership Fund	98,647	135,716
Education Loan Fund	31,140	7,570
Other	6,462	11,328
Total accounts payable	222,812	232,883
Accrued vacation and sick leave pay	92,403	79,084
Deferred membership fees (note 2)	241,553	182,530
Total liabilities	556,768	494,497
Fund balance—Unrestricted operating and designated funds:		
Undesignated operating fund available for general activities	129,371	95,911
Funds designated by the National Finance Committee (note 3):		
Carville Fund	8,296	6,314
Freedom Foundation	3,106	3,166
Total fund balance	140,773	105,391
Total unrestricted operating and designated funds	697,541	599,888
Life Membership Fund—Reserve for future distribution of dues	2,670,866	2,199,395
Total life membership fund	2,670,866	2,199,395
Education loan fund—Fund balance	349,582	295,877
Total Education Loan Fund	349,582	295,877
Total restricted funds	3,020,448	2,495,272

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 1984, WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983

	Unrestricted operating and designated funds	Restricted fund education loan fund	Total all funds	
			1984	1983
Revenues:				
Membership fees and mandates	$254,332	$41,298	$295,630	$281,552
Life membership dues (note 4)	178,102		178,102	118,408
Sale of emblems, et cetera, less related direct cost—$62,563 in 1984 and $50,969 in 1983	1,886		1,886	6,772

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 1984, WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983—Continued

	Unrestricted operating and designated funds	Restricted fund education loan fund	Total all funds	
			1984	1983
Interest income	40,461	14,016	54,477	27,758
Other	7,821		7,821	4,509
Total revenues	482,602	55,314	537,916	438,999
Expenses:				
Salaries and wages	169,619		169,619	139,870
Payroll taxes	17,775		17,775	15,000
Conferences and meetings	23,264	1,331	24,595	21,479
Expenses of National Convention	16,096		16,096	20,354
Publication of monthly magazine	18,000		18,000	18,000
Printing, stationery and office supplies	23,305		23,305	28,659
Expenses of National Commander and officers	16,181		16,181	17,021
Employee benefits (note 5)	73,377		73,377	67,389
Postage	37,329		37,329	35,287
Travel	32,356		32,356	31,078
Professional fees	9,500		9,500	9,500
VAVS awards	1,433		1,433	4,676
Other	8,985	278	9,263	8,705
Total expenses	447,220	1,609	448,829	417,018
Excess of revenues over expenses	35,382	53,705		
Fund balance, beginning of year	105,391	295,877		
Fund balance, end of year	140,773	349,582		

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 1984 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983

	Unrestricted operating and designated funds	Restricted funds		Total all funds	
		Life membership fund	Education loan fund	1984	1983
Sources of funds:					
Excess of revenues over expenses	$35,382		$53,705	$89,087	$21,981
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	3,248			3,248	172,155
Increase in reserve for future distribution of dues		$471,471		471,471	304,879
Increase in deferred membership fees	59,023			59,023	9,596
Total	97,653	471,471	53,705	622,829	508,611
Uses of funds:					
Increase (decrease) in accounts receivable	10,181	(4,058)	23,570	29,693	134,422
Increase in notes receivable			16,226	16,226	20,393
Increase (decrease) in materials and supplies	4,441			4,441	(8,749)
Increase (decrease) in prepaid miscellaneous expenses	184			184	(1,615)
Purchase (sale) of securities—net		475,925		475,925	109,238
Total	14,806	471,867	39,796	526,469	253,689
Increase (decrease) in cash	82,847	(396)	13,909	96,360	254,922

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 1984 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1983—Continued

	Unrestricted operating and designated funds	Restricted funds		Total all funds	
		Life membership fund	Education loan fund	1984	1983
Cash: Beginning of year	512,923	396	142,848		
End of year	595,770		156,757		

See notes to financial statements.

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters—Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 1984

1. Organization

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAV Auxiliary) is a not-for-profit service organization organized under the provisions of theNational Constitution of the Disabled American Veterans. The DAV Auxiliary is organized for the betterment and improvement of the nation's disabled veterans and their families and for cooperation with all patriotic organizations and public agencies devoted to this purpose.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Financial statements.—The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles contained in the Audits of Certain Nonprofit Organizations Guide published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Investments.—Investments in securities are recorded at cost unless management judges that there has been a permanent impairment in value. Gains and losses resulting from the sale of securities are recognized at the time of disposition and are computed using the specific identification method.

Deferred membership fees.—The DAV Auxiliary accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to income ratably during the membership year for which they are paid.

3. Designated funds

The DAV Auxiliary National Finance Committee has designated certain unrestricted funds for the following purposes:

Carville Fund.—For the benefit of persons afflicted with Hansen's Disease being treated at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Carville, Louisiana.

Freedom Foundation.—For the purpose of providing financial aid to elementary and secondary school teachers attending annual summer teaching seminars held at the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

4. Restricted funds

Life Membership Fund.—Under the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary, life membership in the organization is available and amounts so paid are required to be placed in a separate life membership fund and invested; the only allowable withdrawals from the fund are amounts required to pay local units, state departments and national headquarters per capita dues for life members. Life membership receipts are deferred and recognized as income in the operating fund at the time such dues are transferred to the operating fund from the life membership fund, in accordance with the by-laws.

The following summary represents the changes during 1984 in the reserve for future distribution of dues:

Balance, Jan. 1, 1984	$2,199,395
Additions:	
Membership dues received	475,831

Earnings on invested fund assets	239,987
Total	2,915,213
Distributions of dues:	
National Headquarters operating fund	178,102
Local units	36,021
State Departments	26,797
Investment fee	3,427
Total	244,347
Balance, Dec. 31, 1984	2,670,866

Education Loan Fund.—Under the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary, amounts received from each unit as a mandate for educational loans are placed in a separate fund and invested; withdrawals are made from the fund for loans to students. The DAV Auxiliary also allocates expenses from the unrestricted operating fund to the educational loan fund for costs incurred to administer the fund.

5. Employee benefits

All employees of the DAV Auxiliary are covered by the DAV Retirement Plan. In 1984, the DAV Auxiliary reimbursed the DAV National Headquarters $42,000 for its share of the retirement plan cost.

6. Related party transactions

The DAV Auxiliary occupies space in the Disabled American Veterans National Headquarter's building and also uses office equipment owned by the Disabled American Veterans. No fees are charged for such usage.

Next, I would like to recognize Mr. Jim Friesema, Chairman of the Membership and Volunteer Services Committee.

Jim Friesema [Membership and Volunteer Services Committee Chairman]. Comrade Commander and delegates.

The National Convention Committee on Membership and Volunteer Services was called to order for its first business session on July 22, 1985, by the Committee Advisor, Paul Thompson. A roll call showed all members present. The members of the committee are: District No. 1, Stanley R. Greeley; District 2, Prospero Sodano; District 3, Nick Marro; District 4, Alfred Brodeur; District 5, Forrest G. Kidwell; District 6, Thomas H. Bland; District 7, Paul A. DeMichael; District 8, Bennie Covington; District 9, Roy Shover; District 10, Jim Friesema; District 11, William O. Brown; District 12, Anthony Martino; District 13, John Calhoun; District 14, Victor C. Hass; District 16, Charles Demele; District 18, Robert Crawford; District 20, E. D. Christenberry.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman. Jim Friesema, District No. 10, was nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Jim Friesema was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Stan Greeley of District No. 1 was nominated and elected as Secretary of the Committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. Since there was only one resolution submitted, I will read it in its entirely.

Resolution No. 343:

Whereas, many Chapters have delinquent members not residing in the state where said Chapter is located; and

Whereas, these people have been contacted by both National, through delinquent notices, and by the Chapter through correspondence;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, That this said Chapter send the delinquent name and address to the State Commander in that state in which the member lives for followup for the possibility of becoming active in that state organization.

Adopted by Chapter No. 6 of Hampton, Vrginia, on April 18, 1985. Signed by William M. Randolph, Commander, and the signature of the Department Adjutant.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Membership and Volunteer Services National Convention Committee, and I move the adoption of this resolution and that the Committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion. Is there a second?

Mr. **Warren Henson**. Mr. Commander.

Commander **Colley**. Mike Two is recognized.

Mr. **Henson**. Warren Henson, Birmingham Chapter No. 4, Alabama, seconds that.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion and second to accept the report of the Membership and Volunteer Services Committee. On the motion signify by Saying Aye. All opposed, the same sign. The motion to accept the report carries.

[The above-mentioned Resolution No. 343 follows:]

Resolution No. 343

DELINQUENT DAV MEMBERS

Whereas, many Chapters have delinquent members not residing in the state where the Chapter is located; and

Whereas, these people have been contacted by both the National Organization through delinquent notices and by the Chapter through correspondence; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that each Chapter send the name and address to the Department Commander in the state in which the delinquent member lives for follow-up for the possibility of becoming active in that state organization.

Chairman **Friesema**. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Next I would like to introduce Mr. Johnnie Goodman, a recruiter of some notoriety, who is also Chairman of the General Resolutions Committee.

Johnnie Goodman [General Resolutions Committee Chairman]. Thank you, Commander Colley. By golly, we did it.

The National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order for its first business session July 22 at 8:00 o'clock, 1985, by the Committee Adviser, Richard F. Schultz. The first order of business was election of the Committee Chairman. Johnnie Goodman from District 20 was nominated as Chairman. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and Johnnie Goodman from District 20 was elected as Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a Secretary and our dear friend, Mary B. Howard from District 5, was nominated and elected Secretary of the Committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the 22 resolutions submitted. However, prior to my calling your attention to those resolutions, might I point out that these following members of the committee were in attendance together with their alternates:

Asiat A. Ali—I'm going to do that wrong—from District 1; Prince Hamilton, District 2; Daniel Barry, District 3; Maurice L. Collin, District 4; Mary B. Howard, District 5; Carol A. Jackson, District 6; Gregory Jones, District 7; Peter J. Spadoni, District 8; Wilford R. Slate, District 9; John McCollough, District 10; Walter Jones, District 11; Reba Pierce, District 12; Jeanne McLeran, District 13; Delbert B. Nelson, District 14; Michael Tempesta, District 16; Vernon Duke, District 18; myself, I'm 20; and from the Blind Veterans Chapter, Marshall W. Agiular.

As I had indicated, there were 22 resolutions considered by your committee, two of them being drafted in committee. I will only read the resolves, with the exception of two of the eight that we recommend for adoption.

Resolution No. 069: Relative to Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in convention assembled pursue full implementation and adherence to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and support legislation that insures physical access to all handicapped individuals to all federally owned, renovated and leased buildings.

Resolution No. 123: Support of a memorial to veterans of the Korean War.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, go on record in support of legislation that would authorize the construction of a suitable memorial in Washington, DC, in honor of all veterans who served during the Korean War.

Resolution No. 233: Return Memorial Day to May 30.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, go on record to spearhead an effort to make the return of Memorial Day to May 30 a priority of the National Legislative Committee.

Resolution No. 235: Closed caption and sign language interpreter.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in Convention assembled go on record requesting the President to provide for a closed caption or sign language interpreter at all future appearances for the hearing impaired.

Resolution No. 251: This was amended by your committee.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the delegates to the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, go on record in support of appropriate recognition of the military services of women veterans during the Vietnam War.

Resolution No. 332: A commemorative stamp of Korean War veterans. This stamp will be issued the 26th of this month, so we went ahead and adopted it anyway because we felt it was appropriate.

Therefore, be it resolved, That Disabled American Veterans at National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, encourage the veterans of the Korean War to encourage the postal service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the veterans of the Korean War.

As I stated, that stamp will be released the 26th.

With your permission, Commander, the next two resolutions I would like to read in their entirety.

Resolution No. 403: Appreciation to National Commander Chad Colley.

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans National Commander, Chad Colley, has provided outstanding leadership to the DAV during the 1984-85 year; and, Whereas, largely as a result of Commander Colley's leadership, the DAV has successfully fought off attacks against the benefits and services earned by our nation's wartime service-connected disabled veteran; and,

Whereas, Commander Colley's aggressive advocacy for our nation's service-connected disabled veterans resulted in the elimination of the proposed taxation of VA compensation payment; and,

Whereas, Commander Colley has demonstrated his total commitment to the DAV by relocating his family to Washington, D.C., during his tenure as National Commander; and,

Whereas, Commander Colley has traveled extensively in the United States and throughout the world in order to carry the DAV's message to the public; and,

Whereas, under his leadership the DAV exceeded its goal of one million members;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21 through 25, 1985, recognize the contribution Chad Colley has made toward furthering the interests of America's service-connected disabled American veterans and their families; and,

Be it further resolved, That we express sincere appreciation to Commander Colley for his work on behalf of the DAV and the disabled veterans it represents.

[Applause.]

Resolution No. 404:

Whereas, the success of the 64th DAV National Convention convened in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21-25, 1985, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of the state, county and local officials; and,

Whereas, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the department and local chapters and units of the DAV and DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman John Hauck; and,

Whereas, we wish to commend all the news media and the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel for their encouragement and assistance at all of our convention activities:

Now, therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21-25, 1985, express its sincere appreciation to all groups and/or agencies whose dedication to our principles have made our convention a successful one; and,

Be it further resolved, That we wish to extend to the citizens of New Orleans, Louisiana, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization; and,

Be it further resolved, That we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests and to the members of the U.S. Congress who participated in our convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization; and,

Be it further resolved, That we extend our gratitude to the Convention Chairman, John Hauck, and his entire committee in providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our convention stay.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of your Convention General Resolutions Committee and I move you, sir, that these be adopted and the committee be discharged with a vote of thanks.

Ms. CAROL JACKSON. Comrade Commander, Mike Three.

Commander COLLEY. I will recognize Mike Three.

Ms. JACKSON. Comrade Commander, I would like to second that. My name is Carol Jackson, Chapter 6 in Virginia.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion and second. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. The motion carries and so ordered. (Applause.)

[The above-mentioned resolutions 069, 123, 233, 235, 251, 332, 400, and 403-405 follows:]

RESOLUTION No. 069

TO IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT OF 1968

Whereas, the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 intended to provide handicapped individuals physical access to federal buildings; and

Whereas, the record of adherence to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 is poor, at best; and

Whereas, the intent of the law as to provide for ready access by all handicapped individuals to all general purpose federal buildings; and

Whereas, the federal government has not fuly complied with, implemented, or enforced the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support full implementation and adherence to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and legislation that will ensure physical access for all handicapped individuals to all federally owned, renovated and leased buildings.

RESOLUTION No. 123

IN SUPPORT OF A MEMORIAL TO VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR

Whereas, impressive memorials have been erected in our nation's capitol honoring the military service of those who served our nation during armed conflict; and

Whereas, these memorials recognize three of the four major wars fought by Americans during the 20th century; and

Whereas, veterans of the Korean War have yet to be honored by a memorial commemorating their service comparable to those erected on behalf of veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the construction of a suitable memorial in Washington, DC in honor of all veterans who served during the Korean War.

RESOLUTION No. 233

RESTORE MEMORIAL DAY TO MAY 30

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted legislation designating the last Monday in May as Memorial Day; and

Whereas, this has detracted from the significance of the day set aside to honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the military service of their country; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that the Congress of the United States be respectfully requested to rescind its action setting the last Monday in May as Memorial Day and to reestablish May 30 as Memorial Day.

RESOLUTION No. 235

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE CLOSED CAPTION OR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER FOR NATIONALLY TELEVISED APPEARANCES

Whereas, the President gives the State of the Union message and other briefings to a national audience by way of television; and

Whereas, these messages and briefings are bypassing the deaf and individuals with hearing impairments; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the President to provide closed caption or sign language interpreter at all future televised appearances.

RESOLUTION No. 251

IN SUPPORT OF APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION OF THE MILITARY SERVICE PERFORMED BY WOMEN VETERANS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Whereas, impressive memorials have been erected in our nation's capitol honoring the military service of those who served our nation during armed conflict; and

Whereas, these memorials generally recongize the military service and sacrfices of male veterans; and

Whereas, since the conclusion of the Vietnam War a memorial was established to honor and commemorate the service of those male veterans who earned during this war; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has always strongly supportly equal benefits and recognition for women veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orelans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support appropriate recognition of the military service of all women veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

Resolution No. 332

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Whereas, 1985 will mark the 30th anniverary of the conclusion of the Korean War; and

Whereas, hostilities are still occurring along the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea; and

Whereas, stamps have been issued commemorating other wars or battles in which the United States has participated; and

Whereas, no lasting tribute has been undertaken to honor those veterans of the Korean War; and

Whereas, veterans of the Korean War can be considered the "truly forgotten veterans;" now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 encourage the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the veterans of the Korean War.

Resolution No. 400

COMMENDING THE ADOLPH COORS CO.

Whereas, the Adolph Coors Company has established a Scholarship Fund known as "The Coors Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund;" and

Whereas, this Scholarship Fund was established for the children and dependents of American veterans who were injured, prisoners-of-war, killed or missing in action; and

Whereas, the Adolph Coors Company has a distinguished record of employing and advancing the employment of veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 commends the Adolph Coors Company for its outstanding contributions to this nation's veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Resolution No. 403

APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL COMMANDER CHAD COLLEY

Whereas, Disabled American Veterans National Commander Chad Colley has provided outstanding leadership to the DAV during the 1984-85 year; and

Whereas, largely as a result of Commander Colley's leadership, the DAV has successfully fought off attacks against the benefits and services earned by our nation's wartime service-connected disabled veterans; and

Whereas, Commander Colley's aggressive advocacy for our nation's service-connected disabled veterans resulted in the elimination of the proposed taxation of VA compensation payments; and

Whereas, Commander Colley has demonstrated his total commitment to the DAV by relocating his family to Washington, DC during his tenure as National Commander; and

Whereas, Commander Colley has traveled extensively in the United States and throughout the world in order to carry the DAV's message to the public; and

Whereas, under his leadership, the DAV exceeded its goal of one million members; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 recognize the contributions Chad Colley has made toward furthering the interests of America's service-connected disabled veterans and their families; and

Be it further resolved, That we express sincere appreciation to Commander Colley for his work on behalf of the DAV and the disabled veterans it represents.

RESOLUTION NO. 404

EXTEND APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 64TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Whereas, the success for the 64th DAV National Convention convened in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of the state, county and local officials; and

Whereas, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the Department and local Chapters and Units of the DAV and the DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman John Hauck; and

Whereas, we wish to commend all the news media and the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel for their encouragement and assistance at all of our Convention activities; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 express its sincere appreciation to all groups and/or agencies whose dedication to our principles has made our Convention a successful one; and

Be it further resolved, That we wish to extend to the citizens of New Orleans, LA, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization; and

Be it further resolved, That we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests and to members of the U.S. Congress who participated in our Convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization; and

Be it further resolved, That we extend our gratitude to the Convention Chairman John Hauck and his entire committee in providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

RESOLUTION NO. 405

EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER, NEW ORLEANS, LA, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 64TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Whereas, the success of the 64th National Convention convened in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of VA officials both in Washington, DC and New Orleans, LA; and

Whereas, many delegates to our National Convention were in need of medical treatment and require the assistance of prosthetic equipment to attend the National Convention; and

Whereas, in response to this, the health care officials from the VA Medical Center, New Orleans, LA, have staffed and maintained in the Convention hotel an excellent out-patient clinic and prosthetic service; and

Whereas, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 64th National Convention have been extended in a most compassionate manner and has been of the highest quality; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 express its sincere appreciation to the Veterans Administration Medical Center, New Orleans, LA, whose dedication to the care and treatment of the delegates to this 64th National Convention has made our convention a successful one.

Next, I would like to recognize Mr. Dale White, Chairman of the Medical Services Committee.

DALE WHITE [Medical Services Committee Chairman]. Comrade Commander and delegates.

The National Convention Committee on Medical Services was called to order for its first business session on July 22, 1985, at 8:00 a.m. by the Committee Advisor, Norman B. Hartnett.

The first order of business was election of a Convention Committee Chairman. Dale E. White of District 13 was nominated Chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Dale E. White was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a Secretary. Lawrence Pace, District 2, was nominated and elected as the Secretary of the Committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the 56 resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the numbers and the resolved portions of the resolutions.

Resolution No. 300: To provide outpatient treatment to service-connected veterans rated 30 percent or more, excluding dental.

Resolution No. 051: Provide outpatient dental care to service-connected veterans rated 50 percent or more disabled.

Resolution No. 040: Authorize a full range of chiropractic services for eligible veterans.

Resolution No. 128: Continue matching federal funds for state veterans' homes.

Resolution No. 185: Prohibit the offset of VA per diem payments by Medicaid.

Resolution No. 297: Promote the acquisition of additional state veterans' home facilities.

There was one resolution, No. 140, that the committee felt should be referred to the Interim Committee for further development, and we have done that.

Resolution No. 299: Supporting integration of VA readjustment counseling services into VA health-care facilities.

Resolution No. 138: Oppose third-party reimbursement.

Resolution No. 310: Permit VA to fill prescription written by a non-VA physician for service-connected disabilities.

Resolution No. 355: Oppose contracting out of military medical care services.

Resolution No. 354: Opposing the implementation of a user's fee for outpatient treatment in military medical facilities.

Resolution No. 298: Provide military medical care to Medal of Honor recipients.

Resolution No. 207: Opposing efforts to close Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center.

Resolution No. 302: Provide adequate parking at all VA medical centers for disabled veterans and strictly enforce parking regulations governing such spaces.

Resolution No. 129: Opposing the inclusion of the VA hospital system in any national health insurance plan.

Resolution No. 307: It supports adequate funding and staffing for the VA health-care program.

Resolution No. 296: Supporting adequate funding for VA medical and prosthetic research programs.

Resolution No. 304: Support adequate funding for additional VA special teams for amputations, mobility and prosthetic products.

I didn't get that one out.

Resolution No. 305: Support adequate funding and staffing of the VA prosthetic and century aid service.

Resolution No. 306: Support reasonable increase in home-health services program.

The committee amended this to reflect instead of "reasonable," "adequate" funding for these programs.

Resolution No. 082: Extend VA medical care and services to Canadian citizens who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Resolution No. 174: Require VA reimbursement for medical care and services provided to native Americans at Indian health services clinics for service-connected disabilities.

Resolution No. 295: A support-dog program for seriously handicapped veterans.

Resolution No. 386: Provide certain nonmedical support services in the home-health services program.

Resolution No. 393: Provide for reimbursement of certain medical expenses to former prisoners of war.

I would also like to recognize the committee. All districts except for one were present. There was no one there from District 1; District 2, Lawrence Pace; District 3, Andy Aquino; District 4, Frank Dazo; District 5, John Archer; District 6, Alex Jenkins; District 7, Mike Disney; District 8, Paul Benoit; District 9, John Higgins; District 10, Peter Galinet; District 11, Ben Palomino; District 12, Charles Paskvan; myself, from District 13; District 14, Larry Bouska; District 16, Winston McGinnis; District 18, Jym Marcus; and District 20, James Bracy.

There was no one from the Blind Veterans Chapter present, either.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Medical Services National Convention Committee, and I move the adoption of these resolutions and the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Commander Colley. Mike Two.

Mr. John Higgins. Mr. Chairman, John Higgins, Plattsburg No. 7, Nebraska, a member of this committee. I believe he missed two, 401 and 402.

Chairman White. Excuse me, you are right. 401, which was by the Interim Committee, and 402 were also recommended for adoption, and I will get them out and read the resolve portion.

Resolution No. 401: Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Disabled American Veterans assembled at the National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21-25, 1985, that we oppose any attempt by the VA or other sources to effectuate an enrollment system for the furnishing of VA health-care services to eligible disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 402: Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Disabled American Veterans assembled in National Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21-25, 1985, that we oppose any attempt by the VA or other sources to effectuate an enrollment system for the furnishing of VA health-care services to eligible disabled veterans.

Thank you for bringing that to my attention.

Commander Colley. We have a motion including Resolutions 401 and 402.

Mike Two.

Mr. George Robinson. Comrade Commander, George Robinson, Jr., PDC from the State of Missouri. Second that motion.

Commander Colley. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. Motion carries and so ordered.

[The above-mentioned Resolutions 040, 051, 082, 128, 129, 138, 174, 185, 207, 295-300, 302, 304-307, 310, 354, 355, 386, 393, 401, and 402 follow:]

RESOLUTION No. 040

AUTHORIZING A FULL RANGE OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES FOR VETERANS

Whereas, the Veterans Administration has thwarted efforts to make chiropractic health care available to veterans; and

Whereas, the Administrator of Veterans Affairs presently has the authority to furnish hopsital care including chiropractic services to veteran patients; and

Whereas, the VA has neglected or refrained from providing chiropractic care to those veterans who request such services; and

Whereas, a hardship has been placed upon veterans who desire chiropractic services by requiring that they pay, out of pocket, for such chiropractic care; and

Whereas, chiropractic treatment is authorized by the Deprtment of Health and Human Services as a complementary mode of health care available to senior citizens and is recognized by the Department of Labor under the Federal Employees Workers Compensation Act; and

Whereas, all chiropractic health are administered to senior citizens and federal employees is paid in full or in part by state and federal (Medicare) agencies; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation to extend chiropractic services to eligible veterans on request.

RESOLUTION No. 051

TO EXTEND OUTPATIENT DENTAL CARE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 50 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED

Whereas, Public Law 94-581 authorized outpatient treatment for any condition (excluding dental care) for service-connected disabled veterans rated 50 percent or more; and

Whereas, Public Law 96-22 extended eligibility for outpatient dental care to veterans who were prisoners-of-war for at least six months or who are totally disabled from service-connected conditions; and

Whereas, proper dental care is necessary to good health; and

Whereas, such dental care would reduce outpatient visits for other disabilities caused by neglected dental conditions; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation to provide complete dental care on an outpatient basis for service-connected veterans rated 50 percent or more disabled.

RESOLUTION No. 082

TO EXTEND MEDICAL TREATMENT AND SERVICES TO CANADIAN CITIZENS WHO ARE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA OR VIETNAM

Whereas, Section 624(b)(1), Title 38, United States Code, authorizes medical treatment for service-connected disabilities of United States citizens residing and sojourning in Canada and that these services are administered with the full cooperation and assistance of the Canadian Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, Canadian citizens who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces must travel to the United States to seek medical treatment for the same service-connected disabilities as those American service-connected veterans receive while residing and sojourning in Canada; and

Whereas, Canadian citizens gave unselfishly of themselves during a time of war or national emergency and, as a result, incurred hardships and permanent disability in defense of the principles of the United States; and

Whereas, it is the obligation of the Veterans Administration to provide medical service to all veterans of America's Armed Forces for their service-connected disabilities; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 initiate and support legislation in the U.S. Congress to amend Section 624, Title 38, U.S. Code to permit Canadian citizens who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces to receive necessary medical services for any service connected disability in Canada.

RESOLUTION No. 128

CONTINUATION OF GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE HOME FACILITIES

Whereas, the Veterans Administration projects the number of veterans over age 65 will double in the next five years, and triple in the next 10 years; and

Whereas, there will be an ever increasing number of older veterans seeking the assistance offered by State Veterans Homes due to advancing age and associated medical problems; and

Whereas, the 45 State Veterans Homes in 33 states and the District of Columbia now provide 17,000 beds for the care and treatment of elderly and disabled veterans; and

Whereas, most planning for modernization and/or expansion is predicated upon the availability of grant funds through the Veterans Administration; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the continuation of funding at no less than $15,000,000 per annum for no less than the next five years for construction and remodeling of nursing home care facilities at State Veterans Homes under the VA's grant program.

RESOLUTION No. 129

OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF THE VA HOSPITAL SYSTEM IN ANY NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Whereas, a proposal to make the Veterans Administration Hospital System part of a National Health Insurance Plan has been suggested; and

Whereas, it is the policy of the Disabled American Veterans to preserve high quality VA hospital and medical care for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's Armed Forces; and

Whereas, the inclusion of the VA Hospital System in a National Health Insurance Plan would destroy the VA's special medical care programs, specifically designed for the treatment of veterans whose disabilities are incident to military service; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 vigorously oppose any National Health Insurance Plan which proposes to incorporate the VA Hospital System.

RESOLUTION No. 138

OPPOSING THIRD PARTY REIMBURSEMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS AT VA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Whereas, third party payments for veterans' health care has again surfaced in the Administration's Fiscal Year 1986 budget request; and

Whereas, this nation's veterans are eligible for hospitalization, nursing home care, outpatient treatment and other related health services for the many sacrifices made during military service to their country; and

Whereas, most health insurance policies prohibit payment for medical care provided in federal medical facilities; and

Whereas, a relatively small percentage of nonservice-connected veterans have health care insurance and the majority of nonservice-connected VA patients are medically indigent; and

Whereas, the implementation of third party reimbursements would require the VA to develop and maintain a very elaborate cost accounting system and additional resources and employees would be required to operate this system—resources which could be better utilized in the direct care and treatment programs of the Department of Medicine and Surgery; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose legislation empowering the VA or any other agency of the United States government to collect funds from private insurance companies to defray the costs that the nation incurs to care for its veterans, excepting beneficiaries covered by Section 629, Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 174

REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES AT INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES CLINICS ON TRIBAL TRUST (RESERVATION) LANDS

Whereas, Section 616, Title 38, U.S. Code provides for the reimbursement of medical care as needed for veterans entitled to such care under Chapter 17, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, native American veterans, many of whom reside on Tribal Trust (reservation) Lands, are frequently located great distances from VA Medical Centers; and

Whereas, the 3rd Party Law, as administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, may prohibit the treatment of any medical condition which is provided for by any other governmental or private agency; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the Administrator of the Veterans Administration to contact the Administrator of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Director of Indian Public Health Services to arrange for treatment of eligible native American veterans at Indian Health Services Clinics, or to provide for reimbursement to Indian Health Services for treatment of disabilities to the extent allowed under current regulations.

RESOLUTION No. 185

PROHIBIT USE OF PER DIEM PAID BY THE VA FOR THE CARE OF VETERANS IN STATE HOMES TO OFFSET PAYMENTS MADE UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM

Whereas, state veterans homes play a significant and important role in terms of providing medical care to needy veterans; and

Whereas, domiciliary, nursing home and hospital care provided to this nation's veterans by state veterans homes has been invaluable in terms of offsetting severe bed losses suffered by the VA's health care system; and

Whereas, VA per diem rates furnished to state veterans Homes toward the medical care of veterans has proven to be a cost-effective use of federal tax payer dollars; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation to provide per diem subsidies paid by the VA for the care of veterans in state homes shall not be used to offset payments that are made under the Medicaid program for the purpose of assisting eligible veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 207

OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF FITZSIMONS ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

Whereas, serious consideration is being given to the closure of Fitzsimons Army Medical Center; and

Whereas, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center services 16,000 inpatients and handles 670,000 outpatient visits per year with 78,000 personnel eligible for care in the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center catchment area including patients from a 13 state area, 8 Air Force hospitals and 4 Army hospitals; and

Whereas, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center provides employment to 1,000 military personnel and 1,500 civilian employees and contributes $70,000,000 to the local economy through small business contracts and payroll plus expending a total of $137,000,000 to the total economy of the nation; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 opposes any effort to close Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

RESOLUTION No. 295

TO PROVIDE SUPPORT DOGS FOR SERIOUSLY HANDICAPPED VETERANS

Whereas, the Veterans Administration has authority to provide seeing-eye or guide dogs to service-connected disabled blind veterans; and

Whereas, certain seriously disabled veterans suffering from a variety of mobility impairments must rely on devices such as crutches, walkers, etc. for ambulation; and

Whereas, support dogs are trained to assist the handicapped individual in ambulation and provide a beneficial alternative to other forms of supportive devices; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would amend Section 614(b) of Title 38, U.S. Code to authorize the Veterans Administration to provide support dogs for certain mobility impaired service-connected veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 296

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VA MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Whereas, Veterans Administration medical care facilities are expected to provide the highest quality health care services to disabled veterans; and

Whereas, to maintain the expertise to provide the highest quality medical care to veterans there is a constant need for medical and prosthetic research; and

Whereas, VA medical and prosthetic research programs have suffered from a lack of adequate funding and failure by some to recognize the essential role of research to assure proper delivery of health care to veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation appropriating sufficient funding for medical and prosthetic research programs within the Veterans Administration.

RESOLUTION No. 297

TO PRMOTE THE ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL STATE VETERAN NURSING HOME FACILITIES

Whereas, Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter III, authorizes grants for the construction of State Veteran Nursing Homes; and

Whereas, current VA regulations prohibit the purchase of existing community facilities, even when they are suitable for quality nursing home care; and

Whereas, this prohibition limits the participation of many states which might otherwise establish State Veteran Nursing Homes; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seeks amendment of Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 81, that would permit states to use funds authorized under federal grants to states for the construction of State Nursing Homes for the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing community facilities.

RESOLUTION No. 298

TO EXTEND MILITARY MEDICAL BENEFITS TO CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Whereas, this nation owes a great debt of gratitude to those individuals who have displayed unselfish heroism in the defense of freedom; and

Whereas, recipients of the nation's highest award for heroism on the battlefield are not accorded special medical benefits; and

Whereas, many of the living Medal of Honor recipients are not entitled to military retirement benefits and none of the dependents of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients who were enlisted personnel killed in combat prior to 1949 are eligible for military medical benefits; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend military medical benefits to all Congressional Medal of

Honor recipients and their dependents on the same basis as currently provided to military retirees.

RESOLUTION No. 299

SUPPORTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE VA'S READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES INTO VA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Whereas, Public Law 96-22, Veterans Health Care Amendments of 1979, established a new program of readjustment counseling for Vietnam Era veterans; and

Whereas, Public Law 98-160, Veterans Health Care Amendments of 1983, substantially and beneficially expanded the VA's authority to provide professional readjustment counseling; and

Whereas, this program has reached maturity and proved effective as the spearhead of the VA's outreach and counseling services to more than one quarter million veterans and approximately 50,000 family members; and

Whereas, the need to provide professional readjustment counseling to veterans who are suffering problems related to their military experiences continues in great demand; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the orderly transition for the integration of the VA's readjustment counseling services into VA health care facilities.

RESOLUTION No. 300

TO EXTEND VA OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR ANY CONDITION TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 30 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED

Whereas, the Congress has recognized the unique employment problems of service-connected veterans rated 30 percent or more disabled; and

Whereas, current laws governing special employment provisions for veterans and VA dependency allowances require a service-connected disability rating of at least 30 percent; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would amend Section 612(f) of Title 38, U.S. Code, to extend outpatient care for any condition suffered by service-connected veterans evaluated by the Veterans Administration at 30 percent or more disabled, excluding dental care.

RESOLUTION No. 302

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES AT ALL VA MEDICAL FACILITIES

Whereas, most VA medical facilities fail to provide an adequate number of handicapped parking spaces for wheelchair, amputee and other mobility or physically impaired veterans seeking medical care at such facilities; and

Whereas, by providing an adequate number of handicapped parking spaces, disabled veterans will be assured access to VA medical facilities to receive medical services to which they are legally entitled; and

Whereas, handicapped parking privileges are sometimes abused by individuals who are not afflicted with disabilities that preclude normal ambulation; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the VA to provide an adequate number of handicapped parking spaces for disabled veterans at all VA medical facilities and strictly enforce regulations governing the use of such parking spaces.

RESOLUTION No. 304

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL VA SPECIAL TEAMS FOR AMPUTATIONS, MOBILITY, AND PROSTHETICS/ORTHOTICS (STAMP)

Whereas, the VA's Chief Medical Director has recognized the need to establish multi-disciplinary teams (STAMP) whose mission has been defined as providing the highest quality services for veterans with amputation and otherwise impaired mobility or limitation in self-care that can be lessened or overcome by the use of prosthetic or orthotic devices or by other rehabilitation engineering techniques; and

Whereas, the establishment of seven (7) STAMPs throughout the VA medical care system has been authorized to serve this category of disabled veterans nationwide; and

Whereas, the potential number of veterans who stand to benefit from the unique services provided by this program, now and in the future, far exceed the resources of the limited number of STAMPs; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation appropriating sufficient funds and staffing to establish an adequate and realistic number of STAMPs to make such specialized care and services available.

RESOLUTION No. 305

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING AND STAFFING OF THE VA PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE

Whereas, in a study completed by the VA Office of Program Evaluation, VA's Office of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service was found to be lacking in personnel and, consequently, failed to adequately manage the programs under its jurisdiction; and

Whereas, considering the responsibilities of the VA Office of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service it is felt that there should be sufficient personnel available to carry out its mandate; and

Whereas, the DAV believes that sufficient funding is not available for the training of personnel administering the programs of the Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek appropriation of sufficient funds to provide adequate staffing and training of personnel in the VA's Office of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service.

RESOLUTION No. 306

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE HOME HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

Whereas, Congress first established the Home Health Services Program in 1976 (P.L. 94-581) for the effective and economical continuation of a veteran's treatment after discharge from a VA hospital; and

Whereas, this law established a maximum benefit of $2,500 for a service-connected disabled veteran and $600 for a nonservice/connected disabled veteran who becomes eligible for the program; and

Whereas, inflation over the past nine years has significantly undermined the benefit a disabled veteran can derive from this program; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support adequate funding for the VA's Home Health Services Program.

RESOLUTION No. 307

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE VA HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Whereas, underfunding of the VA medical care program continues to hamper the VA's ability to provide quality health care to veterans; and

Whereas, the Office of Management and Budget continues to seek a reduction in the number of VA health care personnel; and

Whereas, adequate funds should be provided to improve medical care for all America's wartime disabled veterans in order to ensure that they will continue to receive medical care second to none; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of adequate appropriations for the funding of the VA medical care program and vigorously oppose any further reduction in VA health care personnel.

Resolution No. 310

TO LIBERALIZE THE DISPENSING OF MEDICATIONS BY VA PHARMACIES

Whereas, the General Counsel of the Veterans Administration has held that veterans who receive treatment from a private physician for their service-connected disabilities or for other disabilities if they are rated 50% or more disabled can no longer have the prescriptions written by their private physician filled by a VA pharmacy; and

Whereas, the VA pharmacies have, as a matter of policy, provided medication to service-connected disabled veterans who receive treatment for their disabilities from a private physician; and

Whereas, the General Counsel's opinion will place an unnecessary burden upon the outpatient clinics at VA facilities as the influx of eligible service-connected disabled veterans will further add to the over-crowding that currently exists in most VA medical facilities simply to fill prescriptions; and

Whereas, veterans who choose to be treated for their disabilities by a private physician save the VA the financial cost of providing that care; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to authorize the VA to fill the prescriptions of service-connected disabled veterans who are under the care and treatment of private physicians for their service-connected disabilities.

Resolution No. 354

OPPOSING THE IMPOSITION OF USER FEES FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CARE AT MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES

Whereas, military retirees have earned the right, by virtue of service to this nation, to utilize the military medical facilities to meet their medical care needs and those of their dependents; and

Whereas, this earned benefit has been established by the Congress through the enactment of legislation entitling military retirees and their dependents to utilize military medical facilities to meet their medical care needs; and

Whereas, the charging of a user's fee would adversely impact upon military retirees' financial and medical well-being; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any proposal that will require a military retiree or their dependents to be charged a user's fee in order to obtain outpatiernt medical services at military medical facilities.

Resolution No. 355

OPPOSING THE CONTRACTING OUT OF CERTAIN MEDICAL SERVICES CURRENTLY PERFORMED BY MILITARY FACILITIES

Whereas, the Department of Defense has historically been charged with the responsibility of bing the primary medical care provider for active duty military personnel; and

Whereas, military medical facilities have proven to represent an excellent environment for providing specialized quality care to disabled servicemen due to combat associated disabilities; and

Whereas, the need to preserve the military medical care system is of vital importance for readiness in the event of future armed conflicts or national emergencies; and

Whereas, by virtue of the unique nature of certain diseases and injuries sustained by active duty military personnel private physicians would be at a distinct disadvantage in providing adequate and specialized treatment in certain instances; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any dilution of the military medical care system by contracting out any activity which is determined to involve or is incident to direct patient care.

RESOLUTION No. 386

PROVIDE CERTAIN NONMEDICAL SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE HOME HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

Whereas, Congress established the Home Health Services Program for the effective and economical continuation of treatment for veterans as an alternative to extended hospitalization or long-term institutionalization; and

Whereas, provision of supportive medical services under this program has resulted in a uniformly high level of care being furnished to eligible veterans in their homes; and

Whereas, the cost effectiveness of this program has been amply documented; and

Whereas, to effectively accommodate the "whole patient concept," flexibility is required to authorize furnishing of certain nonmedical support functions, such as domestic, custodial or homemaker services; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation that would authorize the Veterans Administration to provide appropriate nonmedical support services to veterans entitled to outpatient or ambulatory care under the provisions of Section 612, Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 393

PROVIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR FORMER PRISONERS-OF-WAR

Whereas, current law extends eligibility to former prisoners-of-war for hospital care, as well as outpatient treatment for any disability; and

Whereas, former prisoners-of-war have endured numerous hardships and dietary deficiencies as a result of their internment; and

Whereas, former prisoners-of-war may require medical treatment of an emergent nature to a degree that any delay could be hazardous to their health or life; and

Whereas, a Veterans Administration health care facility may not be feasibly available to provide the necessary emergency medical care; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to amend Section 628(a)(2), Title 38, U.S. Code, providing for the consideration of reimbursement of certain medical expenses incurred by former prisoners-of-war.

RESOLUTION No. 401

OPPOSING "ENROLLMENT" AS A METHOD FOR DELIVERING VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Whereas, Title 38, United States Code mandates that the Veterans Administration will be the primary provider of health care services to eligible disabled veterans; and

Whereas, the furnishing of health care services by the Veterans Administration has been a time tested and economical method of furnishing medical treatment to disabled veterans; and

Whereas, any attempt to require "enrollment" of eligible disabled veterans in a VA health care plan may result in a denial of access to such health care services; and

Whereas, such a denial of access to VA health care services may prove detrimental to the health and welfare of disabled veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any attempt by the VA, or other sources, to effectuate an "enrollment" system for the furnishing of VA health care services to eligible disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 402

OPPOSING ANY ATTEMPT TO CURTAIL OR RESTRICT ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE VA HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Whereas, Title 38 U.S. Code mandates that the Veterans Administration is to be the primary provider of health care services to eligible disabled veterans; and

Whereas, it has been the long-standing intent of Congress that the VA provide medical care to disabled veterans; and

Whereas, any attempt by the Veterans Administration, or other sources, to curtail or reduce eligibility for Veterans Administration health care services would ultimately prove detrimental to the health and welfare of this nation's disabled veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 25, 1985 oppose any and all attempts to curtail or restrict eligibility criteria for the provision of Veterans Administration health care services to service-connected disabled veterans.

Chairman **WHITE**. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **COLLEY**. Next I would like to recognize Mike Bargmann, Chairman of the Employment Committee.

MICHAEL G. BARGMANN [Employment Committee Chairman]. Comrade Commander and delegates.

The National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order for its first business session on July 22, 1985, by the Committee Advisor, National Director of Employment, Ron Drach.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman. Michael Bargmann was nominated Chairman. There being no further nominations, they were closed. Michael Bargmann was elected.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the Secretary. Joseph Andry was nominated and elected as Secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention.

For the purpose of saving time, I will only read the number and the intent of the resolve, since there were over 35.

Resolution No. 024: Oppose contracting out to preserve disabled veterans' jobs.

Resolution No. 028: Liberalize unemployment compensation for veterans.

Resolution No. 034: Transfer OFCCP responsibility to ASVET and to provide adequate funds for workshops for federal contractors.

Resolution No. 065: Extend the Employment Veterans Job Training Act.

Resolution No 077: Enforce Executive Order No. 5396 as it relates to the postal service.

Resolution No. 095: Oppose changes to the Wagner-Peisner Act would be detrimental to veterans service and provide adequate funds for job service.

Resolution No. 096: Establish Regional Directors of veterans employment training service employment positions by law.

Resolution No. 102: Mandate the office of personnel management to list and publish temporary jobs in federal employment for all disabled veterans and grant appeal rights for temporary appointees.

Resolution No. 103: Refer military medically disabled retirees to the Veterans Administration for vocational rehabilitation training and subsequent placement in employment.

Resolution No. 109: Extend targeted jobs tax credits.

Resolution No. 118: To accord preference eligible status to veterans whose disability was incurred or aggravated while on active duty for training.

Resolution No. 119: Support veterans' preference in federal employment.

Resolution No. 120: Provide that Purple Heart recipients be considered compensably disabled for purposes of veteran's preference in federal civil service.

Resolution No. 124: Urge OPM to support and promote the 30 percent non-competitive hiring authority.

Resolution No. 132: Amend Job Training Partnership Act.

Resolution No. 179: Mandate EEOC and OFCCP to provide adequate staff training regarding antidiscrimination for disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 181: Adequate funding for vets.

Resolution No. 197: Amend Title 38, Section 2002 to maintain veterans' preference.

Resolution No. 215: Proper funding of DVOP and LVER programs.

Resolution No. 244: Adequate funding for Title 4 of JTPA.

Resolution No. 247: Have OPM waive any written test for disabled veterans under 30 percent as a targeted group granting EEOC rights and ceiling exemptions.

Resolution No. 313: Amend federal regulations to give equal treatment and maximum consideration to disabled veterans similar to those given to minorities and women in promotions.

Resolution No. 335: Mandate the United States Postal Service to provide veterans' preference and make use of VRA and 30 percent noncompetitive appointments.

Resolution No. 338: Amend definition of disabled veterans for affirmative action purposes in Chapter 42 of Title 38, USC.

Resolution No. 346: Request Chapters and Auxiliaries to write their Congressmen and Senators in support of House Rule 1408. That's the EVJTA.

Resolution No. 356: Oppose any changes to the federal retirement program that would adversely affect service-connected disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 358: Allow disabled military retirees to count all their service time toward civil service retirement.

Resolution No. 398: Department of Labor to amend the two-year residency requirement by permitting a waiver for those assistant state directors who have two years employment.

Resolution No. 359: Fine any civilian personnel officer a $100,000 per day fine for not establishing an affirmative action program for disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 360: Require federal supervisors specify in writing the reason a disabled veteran who is on the referral list for employment or promotion as one of the "best qualified" is not selected.

Resolution No. 374: Amend Title 38, Section 2003(A) to eliminate the 25 percent outstation requirement for DVOPs.

Resolution No. 376: Support full enforcement of affirmative action for eligible veterans required of federal contractors.

Resolution No. 395: Request the Small Business Administration to conduct a study to determine how many businesses are owned by disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 396: The Small Business Administration give preference to disabled veterans in loan assistance.

Resolution No. 397: Provide for preference for disabled veterans-owned businesses in federal contracting process.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Employment National Committee and I move the adoption of these resolutions and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Commander **Colley**. Mike Two.

Mr. **George Nickolas**. George Nickolas, Scott County No. 2 seconds the motion for the adoption of the report.

Commander **Colley**. And what state is Scott County in?

Mr. **Nickolas**. I'm sorry. It's in the great State of Iowa.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion and a second to accept the report. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. Motion carried and so ordered.

Chairman **Bargmann**. Thank you. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned Resolutions 024, 028, 034, 065, 077, 095, 096, 102, 103, 109, 118–120, 124, 132, 179, 181, 197, 215, 244, 247, 313, 335, 338, 346, 356, 358–360, 374, 376, and 395–398 follow:]

Resolution No. 024

TO OPPOSE CONTRACTING OUT TO PRIVATE CONTRACTORS CERTAIN SERVICES CURRENTLY PERFORMED BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Whereas, disabled veterans currently enjoy veterans' preference in federal employment; and

Whereas, the federal government has renewed its effort to expand its "contracting services" to outside contractors thereby eliminating thousands of jobs in the federal sector; and

Whereas, the elimination of these jobs would impact adversely an employment opportunities for disabled veterans in the federal sector; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose the further contracting out of services currently performed by federal employees.

Resolution No. 028

AMEND EXISTING LAW TO PROVIDE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS TO EX-SERVICEMEN

Whereas, existing law prohibits ex-servicemen from receiving unemployment compensation unless they complete their first term of enlistment; and

Whereas, ex-servicemen have traditionally been eligible for these benefits; and

Whereas, most states grant these benefits to individuals who "quit" their jobs, but existing law does not grant payments to ex-servicemen who "quit" their jobs; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support amendment to existing law to provide for unemployment compensation benefits to ex-servicemen.

Resolution No. 034

TRANSFER ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FROM OFCCP TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Whereas, Section 2012, Title 38, U.S. Code requires that certain government contractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Labor is mandated with the enforcement responsibility of this Section of law; and

Whereas, the Secretary has delegated this enforcement authority to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs; and

Whereas, there is within the Department of Labor an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training who is the principal advisor to the Secretary on all matters relating to veterans; and

Whereas, it is the belief of the Disabled American Veterans that all employment and training functions should be the responsibility of this Assistant Secretary; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the amendment of Section 2012, Title 38, U.S. Code to transfer the enforcement functions for affirmative action, along with sufficient staff positions and budget, from OFCCP to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Resolution No. 065

EXTEND THE EMERGENCY VETERANS' JOB TRAINING ACT (EVJTA)

Whereas, the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act (EVJTA), Public Law 98-77, was created to assist unemployed Korean Conflict and Vietnam Era veterans on obtaining stable full-time employment; and

Whereas, this program of employment assistance and training was designed to last for only two years; and

Whereas, initial participation has been slow and many employers and veterans are just now becoming aware of the program; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation to extend and fund the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act to allow full participation by all eligible unemployed veterans.

Resolution No. 077

POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT

Whereas, many disabled veterans seek employment with the Postal Service and must serve a 90 days probationary period like any new employee of the Postal Service; and

Whereas, many disabled veterans seeking employment with the Postal Service may need medical or hospital care due to their service-connected disability during this probationary period; and

Whereas, the employee on probationary work period has not had time to accumulate any sick leave; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the U.S. Postal Service to allow disabled veterans sick leave during the probationary work period without reprisal, provided a doctor's report is properly filed with his or her supervisor.

Resolution No. 095

TO OPPOSE ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT DETRIMENTAL TO THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OR VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Whereas, the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 created the United States Employment Service and the Veterans Employment Service; and

Whereas, there are certain groups who are seeking amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act to possibly include adverse changes in the Veterans Employment Program; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any legislation to amend the Wagner-Peyser Act that would adversely impact on the Veterans Employment Programs within the Department of Labor.

RESOLUTION No. 096

TO ESTABLISH BY LAW THE POSITION OF REGIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Whereas, Chapter 41, Title 38, United States Code provides that the Veterans Employment Service shall administer programs for job counseling, training and employment placement services for all veterans; and

Whereas, the Veterans Employment Service has established (although not authorized by law) regional Veterans Employment Representatives to supervise and monitor the Veterans Employment Programs of each of the states in their jurisdiction; and

Whereas, Regional Veterans Employment Representatives provide a vital service in promotion of providing employment assistance to veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to establish, by statute, the position of Regional Veterans Employment Representative.

RESOLUTION No. 102

INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED VETERANS IN THE FEDERAL SECTOR

Whereas, Veterans Preference applies under the authority to make and extend temporary limited appointments; and

Whereas, many agencies still circumvent veterans preference; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that:

1. Federal agencies and federal contractors list temporary positions with the local Office of Personnel Management, State Job Service, Veterans Employment Service and state headquarters of veterans' organizations prior to public announcements of temporary positions.
2. Utilize the VRA and 30 percent noncompetitive appointment authority to fill temporary positions.
3. Provide authority for veterans, especially disabled veterans, to appeal if they feel agencies have violated their rights in filling temporary appointments.

RESOLUTION No. 103

EXPEDITE REHABILITATION, COUNSELING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, persons serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who incur disabilities in the line of duty rated at 30 percent or more receive disability retirement benefits; and

Whereas, many of those who are retired on disability are young and unskilled and will probably be eligible for VA vocational rehabilitation; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration and the Department of Labor to combine their efforts so that these individuals receive counseling, training under Chapter 31 when applicable and job placement opportunities.

RESOLUTION No. 109

EXTEND THE TARGETED JOBS TAX CREDIT (TJTC) PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

Whereas, the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) Program provides certain tax incentives to employers who hire disadvantaged Vietnam Era and certain disabled veterans; and

Whereas, the program was responsible for the employment of 29,000 veterans in Fiscal Year 1985; and

Whereas, the program is due to expire December 31, 1985; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 request an extension of the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program and make eligible any unemployed veteran.

Resolution No. 118

TO ACCORD PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE STATUS TO VETERANS WHOSE DISABILITY WAS INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING

Whereas, the Office of Personnel Management has taken the position that disabled veterans whose only military service was during a period of active duty for training are not disabled veterans for purposes of veterans' preference; and

Whereas, such disabled veterans may be eligible for benefits administered by the Veterans Administration, Department of Labor and other agencies; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans believes that the intent of Congress was to accord veterans' preference status to any disabled veteran who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces, was separated under honorable conditions, and has established the presence of a service-connected disability or is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits or pension; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation to amend Section 2108 of Title 5, U.S. Code to extend veterans' preference to disabled veterans whose disability was incurred or aggravated while on active duty for training purposes.

Resolution No. 119

SUPPORTING VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has strongly supported federal, state and local veterans' preference laws; and

Whereas, attempts are being made to weaken, dilute and circumvent existing veterans' preference laws; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support veterans' preference in federal and state employment.

Resolution No. 120

TO PROVIDE THAT PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS BE CONSIDERED "COMPENSABLY" DISABLED VETERANS FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE

Whereas, a recipient of the Purple Heart may be rated "non-compensable" by the VA; and

Whereas, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has determined that "non-compensable" Purple Heart recipients are not covered for affirmative action purposes under section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, compensably disabled veterans are ranked higher than non-compensably disabled veterans in the hiring process; and

Whereas, since the Purple Heart is only awarded for a combat wound sustained on the field of battle while engaging an enemy of the United States; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation authorizing that all Purple Heart recipients be considered "compensably disabled" for purposes of veterans' preference and affirmative action in the federal Civil Service.

RESOLUTION No. 124

PROMOTION BY THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT OF THE SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITY FOR 30 PERCENT DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, the 30 percent disabled veteran hiring program, codified in 5 U.S. code, Section 3312, is designed to allow federal agencies to hire disabled veterans without competitive examinations, which may lead to career appointments; and

Whereas, this special authority is discretionary and not mandatory of federal agencies; and

Whereas, federal agencies have never fully embraced or utilized this program, thus denying many qualified disabled veterans the opportunity for federal employment; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the Office of Personnel Management to fully support and promote the use of the special hiring authority for veterans who are 30 percent or more disabled.

RESOLUTION No. 132

INCREASE FUNDING FOR VETERANS UNDER JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT (JTPA)

Whereas, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was established as a substitute for the Comprehensive Employment and Training act (CETA); and

Whereas, JTPA does not provide for veterans' preference except in Title IV(C); and

Whereas, funding for Title IV(C) is based on a formula of the total program funding which, in terms of veterans' employment and training needs, is inadequate; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support an amendment of current law that would authorize 20 percent of total JTPA moneys be used for Title IV(C) veterans' employment and training needs.

RESOLUTION No. 179

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS AND THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION PROGRAMS

Whereas, Congres has enacted legislation providing the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program responsibility for enforcing the various laws governing the Affirmative Act Program for veterans, including disabled and Vietnam Era veterans; and

Whereas, the Affirmative Action Program has not been effectively utilized; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to provide effective formal training to their staff and to the regional and State Directors of Veterans Employment in order to effectively implement the current Affirmative Action Program.

RESOLUTION No. 181

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has consistently supported an active and effective employment program within the Department of Labor for veterans, especially disabled veterans; and

Whereas, disabled and certain Vietnam Era veterans continue to suffer disproportionate rates of unemployment; and

Whereas, adquate funding is necessary in order to provide a successful program that maximizes employment and training opportunities for veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support adequate funding of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service within the Department of Labor, as well as the other designated federal and state agencies mandated to address veterans' employment needs.

Resolution No. 197

PROVIDE FOR VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN VALIDITY GENERALIZATION

Whereas, the Department of Labor, in cooperation with the State Employment Security Agencies, is developing an employment service referral system based on a "validity generalization concept;" and

Whereas, this concept is a guideline based on testing and counseling; and

Whereas, the potential exists for non-veterans to be referred before veterans based on this numberical ranking; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 request the Department of Labor ensure that the validity generalization system contains a specific veterans' preference clause (numerical or otherwise) to assure the veterans' preference provisions of Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code are incorporated.

Resolution No. 215

PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE DISABLED VETERAN OUTREACH PROGRAM (DVOP)

Whereas, Public Law 96-466 made the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) a permanent program; and

Whereas, the individuals employed in DVOP are state employees funded by the Employment Service "Grants to States;" and

Whereas, unless adequate funding is provided with specific line item authority DVOP may become integrated with other employment programs; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support adequate funding with specific line item authority for the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) and that such funds be dispensed by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Resolution No. 244

ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT (JTPA)

Whereas, Congress has enacted legislation to replace the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) with the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA); and

Whereas, disabled veterans and other veterans do not receive adequate assistance under JTPA because of inadequate funding; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge Congress to allocate adequate funding under JTPA to address the specific needs of unemployed veterans with special emphasis on the employment needs of disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 247

IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED VETERANS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Whereas, the Civil Service Reform Act added some additional preferences for those service-connected disabled veterans rated 30 percent or more; and

Whereas, a special non-competitive appointing authority exists for these individuals; and

Whereas, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has a program to target certain disability groups for affirmative action purposes; and

Whereas, federal agencies are restricted as to the number of employees it may have by employment ceilings and budget restrictions; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 request: (1) that federal agencies waive any written test for non-competitive appointments for 30 percent or more service-connected disabled veterans; (2) EEOC include all 30 percent or more service-connected disabled veterans as a targeted disability group; and (3) OMB grant personnel ceiling exemptions to federal agencies who hire disabled veterans under the special non-competitive appointing authority.

RESOLUTION No. 313

TO PLACE SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE PROMOTION OF DISABLED VETERANS IN FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

Whereas, the federal government is utilizing affirmative action programs and is placing special emphasis upon the hiring and promotion of minorities and women; and

Whereas, disabled veterans are not given priority in these special emphasis programs in spite of the high unemployment and underemployment rates among disabled veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21–25, 1985 urges that the federal regulations placing special emphasis on the hiring and promotion of minorities and women be amended to give equal treatment and maximum consideration to disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 335

CALLING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF PROGRAMS TO EMPLOY VETERANS IN THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Whereas, the Postal Reform Act provided that veterans shall continue to receive preference for postal jobs; and

Whereas, current law provides that all agencies of government, including the Postal Service, as well as federal contractors, take affirmative action to hire handicapped individuals, disabled veterans and Vietnam Era veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21–25, 1985 strongly urges the U.S. Postal Service to reinforce its programs to (1) provide preference to veterans as provided by law; (2) employ Vietnam Era veterans under the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority; and (3) utilize the special appointment authority to hire disabled veterans and severely handicapped individuals.

RESOLUTION No. 338

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF DISABLED VETERAN FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS ADMINISTERED UNDER CHAPTER 42, TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, Public Law 93-508, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 amended Title 38, U.S. Code to liberalize eligibility for vocational rehabilitation to include veterans with a compensable service-connected disability; and

Whereas, Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 42 defines a disabled veteran as one who is rated 30 percent or more service-connected disabled or as one who was discharged or released from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; and

Whereas, disabled veterans continue to bear a disproportionate unemployment rate and have not received adequate assistance under Chapter 42, Title 38, U.S. Code; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21–25, 1985 support legislation to amend Section 2011 of Title 38, U.S. Code to redefine the term "disabled veteran" as "one who has a compensable service-connected disability under laws administered by the Veterans Administration or one whose discharge or release from active duty was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty."

RESOLUTION No. 346

REQUEST CHAPTERS AND AUXILIARIES WRITE IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1408

Whereas, the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act has expired; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives has passed H.R. 1408 but has not been acted favorably on by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; and

Whereas, the DAV supports H.R. 1408; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21–25, 1985 initiate a letter writing campaign by its Chapters and their Auxiliaries with a request that they contact their Congressmen and Senators in support of H.R. 1408.

Resolution No. 356

OPPOSING CHANGES TO THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM ADVERSELY AFFECTING SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, several proposals are currently under consideration by the Congress to modify the Federal Civil Service Retirement Program; and

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans could be adversely affected by changes to the current Retirement System unless grandfathered in; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the Congress to reject any changes to the current federal Retirement Program for those service-connected disabled veterans who were federal employees prior to the enactment of any of the proposed changes.

Resolution No. 358

PROVIDE THAT DISABLED VETERANS WHO RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE FOR DISABILITY BE PERMITTED TO APPLY ALL MILITARY SERVICE TOWARD CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT

Whereas, current law permits a disabled military retiree whose disability was incurred as a result of combat with an enemy of the United States and/or the result of an instrumentality of war during a wartime period to apply their military service time toward federal civil service retirement, without waiving their military disability retirement pay; and

Whereas, a wartime disabled military retiree whose disability was not incurred as a result of combat or an instrumentality of war may apply their military service time toward federal civil service retirement, but must waive their military disability retirement pay; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation to permit any wartime disabled veteran who retires from military service for disability to obtain credit for all military service toward retirement from the federal civil service system, without the waiver of military disability retirement pay.

Resolution No. 359

PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES AGAINST FEDERAL EMPLOYERS WHO VIOLATE THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, disabled veterans are entitled to affirmative action under Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, this affirmative action is in addition to basic veterans' preference; and

Whereas, many federal departments and agencies do not have an effective affirmative action program for disabled veterans; and

Whereas, there are no sanctions, penalties or other remedial actions available for violations of the affirmative action provisions of Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support a program that would provide a $1,000 per day fine, following a ten day warning period, against any civilian personnel officer in the federal government that does not comply with the provisions of Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code.

Resolution No. 360

AMEND THE DISABLED VETERANS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM

Whereas, Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code mandates federal agencies to promote maximum employment and job advancement opportunities within the Federal government for qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era, to include hiring under Executive Order (VRA); and

Whereas, the disabled veteran Affirmative Action Program is not adequately enforced and does not provide any mechanism to grant relief to an individual who believes an agency may have violated his rights; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembed in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge OPM to require federal agencies to specify in writing the reason for non-selection of a qualified disabled veteran who is on the referral list for promotion and who is listed as one of the best qualified.

RESOLUTION No. 374

CALLING FOR LIBERALIZATION OF THE 25 PERCENT OUTSTATIONING REQUIREMENT FOR DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM OFFICERS

Whereas, Public Law 96-466—The Veterans Rehabilitation and Education Amendments of 1980—placed into statute the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP); and

Whereas, approximately 2,000 DVOPs are employed in State Employment Service positions to assist in the placement of disabled, Vietnam Era and other veterans in meaningful jobs; and

Whereas, Public Law 96-466 also requires that 25 percent of the DVOPs be stationed in outlying areas of the community; and

Whereas, in some instances the lack of significant outlying locations makes compliance with the 25 percent outstationing requirement virtually impossible; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention asembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation to amend Section 2003(A) of Title 38, U.S. Code to authorize the various State Directors of Veterans Employment authority to outstation up to 25 percent of DVOP personnel.

RESOLUTION No. 376

SUPPORTING FULL ENFORCEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS REQUIRED OF FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

Whereas, Section 2012 of Title 38, U.S. Code, requires that any private contractor or subcontractor who has a government contract for the procurement of personal property and nonpersonal services of $10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era; and

Whereas, this federal statute further requires contractors to list "immediately" with the local job service office all of its suitable employment openings; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 12-25, 1985 urge the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor to strictly enforce the provisions of Section 2012, Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 395

REQUEST SBA TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE HOW MANY BUSINESSES ARE OWNED BY DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, very little data are available on businesses owned and operated by disabled veterans; and

Whereas, it would be advantageous for purposes of program and budgetary planning to know how many such businesses exists; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 request the SBA conduct a study to determine how many businesses in the United States are owned and operated by service-connected disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 396

SBA GIVE PREFERENCE TO DISABLED VETERANS IN LOAN ASSISTANCE

Whereas, many disabled veterans are seeking to start their own business; and

Whereas, existing SBA policy provides for special emphasis for veterans, but no preference or priority to disabled veterans in their loan procedures; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek changes to assure that disabled veterans receive preference in the loan process with SBA.

Resolution No. 397

TO PROVIDE FOR A PREFERENCE FOR DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE FEDERAL CONTRACT PROCESS

Whereas, many disabled veteran owned businesses are unable to compete in the federal contract process because of existing policies and programs for other "disadvantaged" groups; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans believes strongly that no group should receive higher priority than our Nation's disabled veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 request changes to assure that disabled veteran owned businesses receive preference in the federal contract process for contracts for which they are qualified to fulfill.

Resolution No. 398

TO AMEND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTORS OF THE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted legislation providing for a Veterans Employment Servie within the Department of Labor; and

Whereas, the Act provides that the State Director and the Assistant State Director of the Veterans Employment Service shall be a veteran, and at the time of appointment shall be a bonafide resident of the state for at least two years; and

Whereas, this provision prohibits promotional opportunities for Assistant State Directors to other states and restricts them to their own states; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 go on record in support of a waiver to substitute two years experience as an Assistant State Director in lieu of the current residency requirements, thereby allowing Assistant State Directors the opportunity to compete for State Director positions as they become vacant.

Commander **Colley**. Next I'd like to recognize Mr. Bill Wiggins, Chairman of the Finance and Dues Committee for his report.

Mr. **William D. Wiggins, Jr.** [Finance and Dues Committee Chairman]. Comrade Commander, National Officers and fellow delegates.

The National Convention Committee on Finance and Dues was called to order for its first business session on Monday, July 22, 1985, by Committee Advisor Charles Cryder. At this time I'd like to read the names of the other delegates that served on this committee with me. It made my job a much easier one.

District 1, Arthur Cushing; District 2, Donald Sioss; District 3, Mike Godich, Jr.; District 4, Larry Cupoli; District 5, Billy J. Nix; District 6, Bill Wiggins; District 7, William Scheutte; District 8, Roy Mitchell; District 9, Don Gallagher; District 10, Russell Spalding; District 11, Mike Terry; District 12, Rupert Wimmer; District 13, Bob Poole; District 14, Chick Larson; District 16, Charles Framiglio; District 18, Joseph Fitterer; District 20, Charles Hood.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman. Bill Wiggins, District 6, was nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and Bill Wiggins was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a Secretary. Billy Nix, District 5, was nominated and elected as Secretary.

Resolutions 021, 022, 216 and 350 were submitted to this committee for consideration and the following actions were taken:

Resolutions 021, 022 and 350 were rejected with no further consideration by the committee.

Resolution 216, to approve a medal for ROTC recipients who have been given meritorious service was tabled and referred to the national headquarters for further study.

The committee reviewed the 1984 audited financial report with Comptroller Charlie Cryder. The Comptroller also reviewed the 1986 proposed budget which was referred to the Convention Finance and Dues Committee by the National Finance Committee with their recommendation for adoption.

The 1986 proposed budget was approved by unanimous vote of the committee and adopted. The committee expressed thanks to Charles Cryder, the National Finance Committee Chairman, John W. Peluse, for their assistance in performing the work of this important committee.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Convention Committee on Finance and Dues and I hereby move the adoption of this report and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Commander COLLEY. Mike Two.

Mr. BILL CARMAN. Bill Carman, Sr., Vice Commander, Department of Missouri, seconds that motion.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion and a second to approve the report.

Mr. NICKOLAS. Question.

Commander COLLEY. Question.

Mr. NICKOLAS. The Finance and Dues Committee, did they get a resolution referred to them relative to establishing an insurance program? I didn't hear it. I'm sorry if I missed it.

Chairman WIGGINS. Let me check my resolutions on this.

Commander COLLEY. For the record, would you identify yourself?

Mr. NICKOLAS. Okay. I'm George Nickolas, Scott County Chapter 2, Iowa.

Chairman WIGGINS. Was this resolution submitted by the Department of Iowa?

Mr. NICKOLAS. It was submitted by the Department of Iowa. I thought it was referred to the Finance and Dues Committee, but I may be in error and if I am, I stand corrected.

Chairman WIGGINS. 350 was the resolution and this was rejected by the committee.

Mr. NICKOLAS. Is there any specific reason? I would like to carry that message back.

Chairman WIGGINS. No, sir, none at all. It was just flat rejected. [Laughter.]

If you would like, I will meet with you and with the Comptroller, Charlie Cryder, after this meeting and we will discuss that.

Mr. Nickolas. Certainly. I would like to convey the message.

Chairman Wiggins. Thank you.

Commander Colley. On the question. All in favor of the motion please signify by saying Aye. Opposed, same sign.

Chairman Wiggins. Thank you, Commander.

Commander Colley. Motion carries and so ordered. [Applause.] Next, I would like to recognize Bert O'Neil, National Security and Americanism Committee.

Bert O'Neil [National Security and Americanism Committee Chairman]. Thank you, Commander.

The National Convention Committee on Security and Americanism was called to order for its first business session this morning, July 22. The Committee Advisor, Steve Edmiston, was substituted for Marion Shoemake, who was called away on business.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman. Bert O'Neil, Jr., and Glen Willard were both nominated and by a 9 to 4 vote, yours truly, Bert O'Neil, Jr., was elected Chairman of that committee.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a Secretary. Ken Wingate was nominated and elected as Secretary of the Committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I would like to read the numbers rejected, only the numbers. Those rejected were 064, 136, 145, 146, and 353. Those were rejected.

I would like to go into now the resolutions that were adopted, and I will read only the numbers and resolved portions.

Resolution No. 391:

Requesting the adequate funds for the Department of Defense.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21st through 25 goes on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard, adequate funding to insure a United States Armed Forces second to none.

Resolution No. 394:

Seeking the immediate release of any Americans who may be still held captive in Indochina and to return the remains of any Americans who may have died in Southeast Asia through the Vietnam War.

Therefore, be it resolved, That the DAV in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21st through 25th, supports the President's pledge of highest national priority to resolve the status of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina; and.

Be it further resolved, That we urge the U.S. Government to insure this issue does, in fact, remain one of the highest national priorities and to accelerate efforts in every reasonable way to obtain the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina and the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and the repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.

This completes the reports adopted by the Committee. And I will be remiss if I don't recognize the following:

District 1, Jim Muzzy; District 2, Vincent Demarco; District 3, yours truly, Bert O'Neil; District 4, Walter Lucuk; District 5, William Cripps; District 6, Jack Corson; District 7, Glen Willard; District 8, Belton Bordelon; District 9, William Carman; District 10, George J. Zoscsak; District 11, Pete Martinez; District 12, Jack

Sarowatz; District 13, Wallace Hawkins; District 14, John Huntington; District 16, Kenneth Wingate; District 18, Louis Blakely; and District 20, Charles Altman.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report for National Security and move the adoption and discharge of the committee.

Commander **Colley**. Mike Three.

Mr. **Grant Acker**. From the land of pleasant living, the home state of Sr. Vice Commander Al Linden, I wish to second this motion. Grant Acker from the Department of Maryland.

Commander **Colley**. Say that again for the record, please.

Mr. **Acker**. Grant Acker, Department of Maryland, Commander.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion and a second to adopt or to approve the report of the Americanism and Security Committee. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. Motion carries and so ordered. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned Resolutions 391 and 394 follow:]

Resolution No. 391

REQUESTING ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Whereas, the Soviet Union has an army larger than that of the United States; and

Whereas, the Soviet Navy now has more ships, submarines, destroyers and cruisers than the U.S. Navy; and

Whereas, the Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty has allowed the Soviet Union more nuclear missiles and warheads than the United States; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 go on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure a United States Armed Forces second to none.

Resolution No. 394

SEEKING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIE IN INDOCHINA AND THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY HAVE DIED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Whereas, there are currently over 2,450 Americans still missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina; and

Whereas, the families of those U.S. servicemen and civilians missing in Indochina still suffer untold grief and uncertainty due to the lack of an adequate accounting; and

Whereas, the President has declared the issue of Americans missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina as a matter of highest national proprity, has raised intelligence priorities and initiated high level dialog with the governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on this issue; and

Whereas, these efforts have resulted in the repatriation of the remains of 30 missing servicemen during the past four years; and

Whereas, the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has agreed to continue and increase cooperation with the United States, based on the successful joint recovery effort conducted in early 1985, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has indicated willingness to consider a U.S. proposal for joint excavation of U.S. aircraft crash sites with their pledge to accelerate cooperation with the United States; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans support the U.S. government policy that the fullest possible accounting can only be achieved through government to government cooperation; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has maintained an enduring interest in the welfare of those Americans listed as missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the President's pledge of highest national priority to resolve the status of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina; and

Be it further resolved, That we urge the U.S. government to ensure this issue does in fact remain one of highest national priority and to accelerate efforts in every reasonable way to obtain the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina, the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and repartriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.

I would like to recognize Mr. Ed Haas, Chairman of the Veterans' Rights Committee.

Edward Haas [Veterans' Rights Committee Chairman]. Thank you, Commander Colley, National Service Officers.

We are ready with the report of the National Convention Committee on the Veterans' Rights. It was called to order for its first business session on July 22, 1985, by the Committee Advisor, Charlie Thompson.

The first order of business was the election of a Convention Committee Chairman. Edward Haas was nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Ed Haas was elected Chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the Secretary. John Griffin was nominated and elected as Secretary of the Committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and resolved portions of the resolutions. We had received eight and I will give you the numbers of the eight.

Resolution No. 031, Resolution No. 068, Resolution 070, Resolution 108, Resolution 208, Resolution 212, Resolution 254, Resolution 378.

Resolution 208 has two duplicates, 362 and 264.

The committee has adopted two of these, 378 and 208. The resolved portion:

Resolution No. 378:

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in Department Convention assembled in Claymont, DE, June 21st through 23rd, 1985, to seek a change in the VA computer system which would allow the veterans to start or stop direct deposits as fast as they can now change mailing address for an individual check.

Resolution No. 208:

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Veterans Administration be requested to undertake its own evaluation of these research findings with the specific aim of developing clinical tests and procedures which can be used to identify nonhereditary retinitis pigmentosa, thereby producing unacceptable evidence which can be used to determine service connection to prescribe adjudication processes; and

Be it further resolved, That Veterans Administrations also be requested to evaluate results of retinitis pigmentosa research to identify specific findings which may have a bearing on granting service connection for this condition, based on aggravation as described in current Veterans Administration's regulations.

The committee moves for adoption of these two resolutions, and I so move.

That concludes the report of the committee. We move for adoption and the dismissal of the committee.

Mr. **John Griffin**. Comrade Commander.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. GRIFFIN. John Griffin, Past Department Commander, Department of Michigan, seconds the motion.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion and second on the motion. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries and so ordered.

[The above-mentioned Resolutions 208 and 378 follow:]

RESOLUTION No. 208

URGING THE VA TO EVALUATE RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA RESEARCH FINDINGS

Whereas, the VA has consistently denied service-connection for retinitis pigmentosa because they believe it to be an inherited condition; and

Whereas, intensive research in the field of retinitis pigmentosa has begun to produce increasing evidence that this condition is not always inherited, and that as much as 50% of retinitis pigmentosa may not be genetically linked; and

Whereas, these studies are being conducted by some of the most prestigious ophthalmological institutes in the United States; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the VA to undertake its own evaluation of these research findings with the specific aim of developing clinical tests, procedures and specific findings which can be used to identify nonhereditary retinitis pigmentosa and other factors that support the grant of service-connection directly or by aggravation.

RESOLUTION No. 378

SUPPORTING A CHANGE IN THE DIRECT DEPOSIT SYSTEM OF VA BENEFITS

Whereas, VA Regional Offices were established to provide a more expeditious method of providing services to veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

Whereas, the Administration encourages Direct Deposit of VA benefit checks; and

Whereas, it currently takes 60-90 days (2 to 3 checks) to either start or stop this process; and

Whereas, this can create an enormous financial hardship on the benefit recipient; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seeks a change in the VA computer system which would allow the beneficiary to start or stop Direct Deposit as fast as they can now change the mailing address for an individual check.

Chairman HAAS. Thank you. I'd like to recommend a thank you for the committee that worked with me on this. They did a fantastic job. I would like to go a little bit further. Not only am I going to talk about my committee, I would like to congratulate the distinguished delegates out there for their support and hard work to help our Commander to make his million goal eight months prior to his set time limit. For this I'd like to also thank you people. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Next, I would like to recognize Chet Clute, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, for his report.

CHESTER CLUTE [Legislation Committee Chairman]. Thank you, Comrade Commander.

My name is Chester Clute and I'm Chairman of the Legislative Committee. I'm going to do things right at this time, according to the rules. Normally I don't, but I will do this because Chad says I have to.

Comrade Commander and delegates.

The National Convention Committee on Legislation was called to order for its first business session on July 22, 1985, by the Committee Advisors, Stuart J. Cody and John F. Heilman.

The first order of business was the election of Convention Committee Chairman. Chester Clute was nominated for Chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Chester Clute was elected Chairman.

Next order of business was the nomination and election of the Secretary. John Riegel was nominated and elected as Secretary of the Committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention. For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and resolved portions of the resolutions.

Now, I must change that. I won't do that. What I'm going to do, I will read you the number of the resolution and I will read you a short, brief title description of it. Is that all right, Comrade Commander? Okay.

Now, these are adopted resolutions, incidentally. Those resolutions that were not adopted were either not germane to our organization activity or they were already, in fact, in a form of law at the present time or they just didn't sail by us. I'm sorry.

Resolution No. 044: Opposing the taxation of VA disability compensation benefits.

Resolution No. 045: Opposing all Grace Commission recommendations that are adverse to VA benefits and services.

Resolution No. 046: As amended. Opposing a unilateral freeze in VA disability compensation benefits.

Resolution No. 048: Opposing the consolidation of VA regional offices.

Resolution No. 056: Concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation benefits and military longevity retirement pay.

Resolution No. 060: Extend space available travel aboard military aircraft to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans.

Resolution No. 062: Extend the eligibility for mortgage protection life insurance to service-connected veterans rated permanently and totally disabled.

Resolution No. 071: Provide an open period for eligible service-connected veterans to appy for service disabled RH insurance.

Resolution No. 073: Chapter 35 (Dependents and Survivors) education entitlement based upon a service-connected rating of 80 percent or more.

Resolution No. 083: As amended. Authorize VA vocational rehabilitation benefits to eligible service-connected veterans residing or sojourning outside the continental limits of the United States.

Resolution No. 121: Special protection of rating for certain 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans during appeal.

Resolution No. 135: Support continued operation of the military commissary system.

Resolution No. 161: Authorize service-connected burial allowance for presumptive DIC deaths. That's under Section 410(b) of Title 38.

Resolution No. 163: As amended. A compensable service-connected evaluation for all cases of Tinnitus Auriun.

Resolution No. 167: Authorize veterans to negotiate directly with the Veterans Administration relative to purchase of "Foreclosed Properties," with no real estate agent involved.

Resolution No. 171: Provide payment of VA burial and plot allowance to survivors of veterans who were awarded the Purple Heart.

Resolution No. 173: Authorize VA home loan entitlement to eligible Native American Indian veterans who reside on reservations.

Resolution No. 175: Authorize VA Small Business Loans to eligible Native American Indian veterans who reside on reservations.

Resolution No. 182: Provide equal compensation pension benefits to recognized guerrillas and new Philippine scouts now receiving 50 cents on the dollar.

Resolution No. 188: Provide at least one national cemetery in each state.

Resolution No. 191: Reduction in VA benefits to take place 120 days after notification to the veteran. It now takes place 60 days after notification.

Resolution No. 202: Exempt Paragraph 30 benefits from the effective date change contained in Public Law 97-253.

Resolution No. 223: Increase the face value of National Service Life Insurance to $20,000.

Resolution No. 225: In support of a more equitable formula upon which to base DIC payments.

Resolution No. 268: Establish an aid and attendance housebound allowance for dependent children of veterans 30 percent or more service-connected disabled.

Resolution No. 269: VA clothing allowance for veterans with service-connected skin conditions.

Resolution No. 270: Increase the VA plot allowance from $150 to $250 for burial plots.

Resolution No. 271: Support the date of December 1 of each year for effective date for future compensation increases.

Resolution No. 272: Extend commissary and PX privileges and space available travel to enlisted personnel discharged prior to October 1, 1949, with a service-connected disability rated at least 30 percent disabling and who held such 30 percent rating for at least five years from date of discharge.

Resolution No. 273: In support of cabinet level status for the Veterans Administration.

Resolution No. 274: Service-connection for residual disabilities of conditions proven to be related to Agent Orange.

Resolution No. 278: Legislation in support of VA maintaining control over all appropriate records at the record processing center in St. Louis, Missouri.

Resolution No. 280: In support of a uniform policy to provide grave liners in all VA national cemeteries.

Resolution No. 282: Supporting legislation to stabilize the nonprofit Third Class Mail rates.

Resolution No. 283: Support legislation to exclude military disability severance pay from taxation.

Resolution No. 284: Supporting adequate funding for Postal Service Revenue Foregone Fund.

Those of you who do not know what foregone is, talk to a mailman.

Resolution No. 285: To increase the disability evaluation for service-connected bilateral deafness.

Resolution No. 286: Establish a one-year presumptive period of service-connection for Lupus Erythematosis.

Resolution No. 288: To provide mortgage protection life insurance to eligible veterans beyond age 70.

Resolution No. 289: Eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses' educational entitlement under VA Chapter 35 Educational Program.

Resolution No. 292: Extend from one year to two years the period for service-connected disabled veterans to apply for National Service RH insurance.

Resolution No. 293: To extend low interest home loans to veterans eligible for VA Special Adapted Housing Grants.

Resolution No. 294: As amended. To increase VA specially adapted housing grants.

Resolution No. 319: Opposing the elimination of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Resolution No. 322: Ten year protection for service-connected disability evaluations.

Resolution No. 325: Opposing the merger of the Veterans Administration with any federal agency.

Resolution No. 326: Opposing any proposal that would offset VA compensation benefits by Social Security disability benefits or any other federal benefit.

Resolution No. 341: Provide judicial review of adverse VA benefit determinations through an independent court of justice.

Resolution No. 383: Realistic compensation increase.

Resolution No. 385: Establish a housebound allowance under the VA's dependent parent DIC program.

Resolution No. 387: Eliminate the requirement that conditions granted service-connection under presumptive periods must be diagnosed to a compensably disabling degree within the prescribed presumptive period.

Resolution No. 388: Opposing the lifting of private attorney fee restrictions for representation in VA proceedings.

Resolution No. 389: Liberalization of length of marriage criteria for presumptive DIC awards. It's under Section 410(b) of Title 38.

Resolution No. 390: In support of adequate funding of all VA programs.

Resolution No. 392: Extend commissary and PX privileges on the basis of an award of DIC benefits.

Comrade Commander—I'm not talking, I'm reading it.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Legislation National Committee, and I move the adoption of these resolutions and the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

But before I do as you probably recall—now, this is our first convention since we have increased the number of districts and even though we have more districts than we had before, I cannot name them because I cannot read all the signatures, but I had what I believe is one of the nicest committees that ever existed. I'm not going to argue with you other Chairman, but I have got a doozy. These people were very patient, very understanding and very knowledgeable, and I want to personally thank each and every one of you.

Now, Comrade Commander, I move the adoption of these resolutions and the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Commander COLLEY. Mike Two.

Mr. JOSEPH RACCO. Joe Racco, Ohio 35, seconds the adoption.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion and second to accept the report of the Legislative Committee. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries and so ordered. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned Resolutions 044-046, 048, 056, 060, 062, 071, 073, 083, 121, 135, 161, 163, 167, 171, 173, 175, 182, 188, 191, 202, 223, 225, 268-274, 278, 280, 282-286, 288, 289, 292-294, 319, 322, 325, 326, 341, 383, 385, 387-390, and 392 follow:]

RESOLUTION No. 044

OPPOSING THE TAXATION OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Whereas, the Tax Simplification Plan, released by the Department of the Treasury in November 1984, proposed the federal taxation of VA disability compensation benefits; and

Whereas, in the entire history of the disability compensation program these benefits have never been subject to taxation at either the federal, state or local levels; and

Whereas, taxation of these benefits would amount to nothing more than a permanent, enduring reduction in benefits and would demean the sacrifice and service of our nation's service-connected disabled veteran population; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25 vigorously oppose any proposal that would subject VA disability compensation benefits to taxation.

RESOLUTION No. 045

OPPOSING THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECTOR SURVEY ON COST CONTROL (PPSSCC) RECOMMENDATIONS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Whereas, numerous misguided and ill-conceived recommendations, derived from erroneous and incomplete data, have been advanced by the PPSSCC; and

Whereas, implementation of certain recommendations would adversely affect the delivery of veterans' earned benefits and impeded or destroy the total scope of the VA's comprehensive medical care system; and

Whereas, if these recommendationns were adopted a majority of the VA's mandated and moral obligation to administer veterans' statutory entitlements would be delegated to other federal agencies or for-profit private sector interests; and

Whereas, the Congress has established the VA as the sole agency for effective and compassionate administration of entitlement programs and medical care services to this nation's 28 million veterans, their dependents and survivors; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25 1985 vigorously oppose the implementation of any PPSSCC proposal that would dilute or destory the current authority of the VA to administer veterans' entitlement programs.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Resolution No. 046

OPPOSING A FREEZE IN THE RATES OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Whereas, no segment of our society is more deserving of federal benefits and services than those veterans who have incurred disabilities while serving their country honorably in time of need; and

Whereas, under the guise of "reducing federal expenditures," proposals have been advanced to freeze the current rates of VA disability compensation benefits; and

Whereas, the disability compensation benefits of service-connected disabled veterans should be periodically adjusted to reflect inflationary pressures and the rise in the costs of goods and services; and

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans, who have suffered so much for their country, should not be expected to endure further hardships such as would occur should a cost of living adjustment be denied to their benefits; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any freeze in the VA disability compensation program if such program is singled out for such treatment among all other major federal entitlement programs.

Resolution No. 048

OPPOSING THE CONSOLIDATION OF VA REGIONAL OFFICES

Whereas, VA Regional Offices were established to provide a more expeditious method of providing services to veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

Whereas, because of federal budgetary restrictions, VA Regional Offices are presently encountering difficulties in providing such services; and

Whereas, The consolidation of all Regional Offices would further inhibit and disrupt the VA's ability to provide timely and responsible service to veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any proposal to centralize veterans' claims processing services.

Resolution No. 056

CONCURRENT PAYMENTS OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY

Whereas, ex-servicemen who are retired from the military on length of service must waive a portion of their retired pay in order to receive disability compensation from the Veterans Administration; and

Whereas, it would be more equitable if the laws and regulations were changed to provide that in such cases the veteran would be entitled to receive both benefits concurrently since eligibility was accrued or earned under two entirely different sets of enabling laws and regulations; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation and changes in applicable regulations which would provide that a veteran who is retired for length of service and is later adjudicated as having service-connected disabilities, may receive concurrent benefits from the military department and from the VA without deduction from either.

Resolution No. 060

TO EXTEND SPACE AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL ABOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO 100 PERCENT SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, 100 percent totally disabled service-connected veterans have sacrificed greatly in terms of their impairments and loss of earning capacity; and

Whereas, more than any other living group of Americans, such veterans should be eligible for all benefits and privileges that the Congress may provide; and

Whereas, such totally disabled veterans should be extended the same privileges as other personnel currently authorized to utilize space available military air travel; and

Whereas, the extension of such travel to totally disabled service-connected veterans would not place any additional burden upon the administration of this program; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend space available air travel aboard military aircraft to all 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans to the same extent and under the same conditions as is currently provided to retired military personnel.

RESOLUTION No. 062

TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS MORTGAGE PROTECTION LIFE INSURANCE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED

Whereas, VA Mortgage Protection Life Insurance is presently available to veterans entitled to the specially adapted housing award under Section 801(a) of Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, service-connected veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled cannot obtain Mortgage Protection Life Insurance through commercial insurance companies; and

Whereas, their surviving spouse and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend VA Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

RESOLUTION No. 071

TO PROVIDE AN OPEN PERIOD TO APPLY FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS INSURANCE

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans are entitled to apply for Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (RH-NSLI) within one year from the date the VA grants service-connection for any disability; and

Whereas, many eligible veterans, due to financial difficulties and problems associated with readjustment to civilian life, did not apply for RH-NSLI within the one year eligibility period; and

Whereas, many of these service-connected disabled veterans are now prepared and can afford to purchase RH-NSLI but are not able to purchase comparable insurance coverage in the private sector; and

Whereas, precedent has been established to extend previously closed "eligibility periods" for certain other VA benefits and services, including insurance; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation that would authorize an "open period" for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the Service Disabled Veterans Insurance Program (RH-NSLI).

RESOLUTION No. 073

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 80 PERCENT OR MORE DISABLED

Whereas, Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code extends educational assistance to the dependents of service-connected veterans who evaluated as permanently and totally disabled; and

Whereas, there are many service-connected veterans rated 80 percent and 90 disabled, whose dependents cannot afford to attend an institution of higher learning or pursue a vocational endeavor because of the reduced earning ability of such veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend educational assistance under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code to the dependents of veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 80 percent or more.

RESOLUTION No. 083

TO REVISE CURRENT REGULATIONS REGARDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF VA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS OUTSIDE THE CONTINENTAL LIMITS OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, G.I. Bill benefits, as authorized under Chapter 34, Title 38, U.S. Code, are extended to eligible veterans of U.S. Military Service who are residing or sojourning in foreign countries; and

Whereas, under current law, due to severe regulatory restrictions, it is extremely difficult for eligible veterans who are residing or sojourning abroad to receive VA vocational rehabilitation benefits as authorized under Chapter 31, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans found to be eligible for and in need of vocational rehabilitation benefits should not be faced with impediments to receiving such benefits, no matter where they may be residing or sojourning; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support a change in appropriate VA regulations which would enable eligible service-connected disabled veterans residing or sojourning abroad to have free and reasonable access to VA vocational rehabilitation benefits outside the continental limits of the United States.

RESOLUTION No. 121

SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR RATINGS OF TOTALLY DISABLED SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS AFTER 10 YEARS

Whereas, current law extends a protection of all ratings which have been continuously in effect for a period of 20 years or more; and

Whereas, recent program reviews conducted by the Veterans Administration have resulted in reductions in many ratings; and

Whereas, restoration of a reduced rating through the appellate process can involve months, even years; and

Whereas, a reduction in the benefits of unemployed and totally disabled service-connected veterans can work grave hardships upon these veterans and their families; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that Section 110 of Title 38, U.S. Code be amended to allow totally disabled service-connected veterans in receipt of benefits at the 100 percent rate for a period of 10 years or more to continue to receive benefit payments during the appeal of an initial VA decision which proposes a reduction in the total disability evaluation.

RESOLUTION No. 135

OPPOSING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MILITARY COMMISSARY SYSTEM

Whereas, the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control—the so-called Grace Commission—recommended that all stateside military commissaries be closed to save taxpayer dollars; and

Whereas, some members of Congress have proposed to phase-out the Military Commissary System; and

Whereas, the Commissary System is of vital importance to the personnel of our Armed Forces; and

Whereas, active duty personnel, their dependents, retired military and disabled veterans who live on fixed incomes should have high quality food at fair and reasonable prices; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 vigorously oppose any proposal to phase-out the Armed Forces Commissary System.

RESOLUTION No. 161

TO LIBERALIZE PAYMENT OF THE SERVICE-CONNECTED BURIAL ALLOWANCE

Whereas, under current law, VA reimbursement of funeral and burial expenses not to exceed $1,100 is authorized to the eligible survivors of veterans whose deaths are attributable to a service-connected disability; and

Whereas, under current law, eligible survivors in receipt of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits authorized under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, do not have entitlement to the VA's service-connected death burial allowance; and

Whereas, receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits should be the sole eligibility criteria for this benefit; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation that would authorize payment of the VA's service-connected death burial allowance to those survivors of veterans who are in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits by virtue of Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 163

PROVIDE COMPENSABLE EVALUATION FOR TINNITUS AURIUM

Whereas, current regulations administered by the Veterans Administration provides a compensable evaluation for tinnitus aurium secondary to acoustic trauma or head trauma; and

Whereas, a significant number of the veterans suffer from tinnitus aurium attributed to chronic ear infections; and

Whereas, the severity and debilitating nature of the condition, whether its origin is attributed to acoustic trauma or a chronic ear infection cannot be differentiated objectively; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 urge the VA to amend current regulations to provide a compensable evaluation for tinnitus aurium, attributed to chronic ear infections or trauma, whether it be intermittent or constant.

RESOLUTION No. 167

TO AUTHORIZE VETERANS TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE VA FOR THE PURCHASE OF FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted legislation creating a VA Home Loan Guaranty Program; and

Whereas, since the inception of this program, over 12 million veterans have received VA guaranteed loans enabling them to acquire a home for themselves and their families; and

Whereas, in recent years, due to adverse changes in our nation's economy, increasing members of veterans have defaulted on their G.I. insured loans; and

Whereas, in the majority of these defaulted loans, the VA has paid off the guaranteed portion of the loan and assumed ownership of the property; and

Whereas, the VA lists its portfolio of foreclosed properties with real estate agents and pays a fee to such real estate agents when a property is resold; and

Whereas, it would constitute a savings to the VA and the American taxpayer if such fees were not expended; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support a regulatory change which would permit eligible veterans to negotiate directly with the VA for the purpose of purchasing a foreclosed, VA owned property.

RESOLUTION No. 171

ENTITLEMENT TO THE VA BURIAL ALLOWANCE TO SURVIVORS OF ALL PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

Whereas, Public Law 97-35 terminated entitlement to the VA nonsrvice-connected burial allowance to the survivors of certain wartime veterans, including the survivors of deceased Purple Heart recipients who, at the time of death, were not in receipt of VA disability compensation, pension or military retirement pay; and

Whereas, the denial of the VA's nonservice-connected burial allowance to the survivors of Purple Heart recipients is demeaning to the memory of such individuals and the military service which they performed so heroically; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation that would authorize VA nonservice-connected burial benefit entitlement to the survivors of all decreased Purple Heart recipients.

RESOLUTION No. 173

TO AUTHORIZE VA GUARANTEED MOBILE HOME LOANS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS RESIDING ON TRIBAL TRUST (RESERVATION) LANDS

Whereas, Chapter 37, Title 38, U.S. Code authorizes a program of VA guaranteed or direct loans to veterans for the purpose of purchasing a fixed or mobile home; and

Whereas, due to current law and negotiated treaty agreements with Native American Tribal Nations, it is not possible for an eligible Native American Veteran to secure assistance under the VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program toward the purchase of a fixed or mobile home situated on Tribal Trust (reservation) Lands; and

Whereas, these restrictions, in effect, serve to deny eligibility for an important VA benefit to Native American Veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 petition the U.S. Congress to enact legislation that would authorize VA guaranteed or direct loans to Native American Veterans for the purpose of purchasing a mobile home to be situated on Tribal Trust (reservation) Lands; and

Be it further resolved, That the government of the United States and governing bodies of Indian Nations reach agreement to authorize veterans Administration personnel and other federal officers appropriate and necessary access onto Tribal Trust (reservation) Lands as is necessary to administer the VA Loan Guaranty Program.

RESOLUTION No. 175

TO AUTHORIZE VA SMALL BUSINESS LOANS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS WHO RESIDE ON TRIBAL TRUST (RESERVATION) LANDS

Whereas, Chapter 37, Title 38, U.S. Code authorizes a program of small business loans to disabled and Vietnam Era veterans; and

Whereas, due to current law and negotiated treaty agreements with Native American Tribal Nations, it is not possible for an eligible Native American Veteran to receive a small business loan due to residence or location of the business on Tribal Trust (reservation) Lands; and

Whereas, these restrictions, in effect, serve to deny eligibility for an important VA benefit to Native American Veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 petition the Congress to enact legislation that would authorize VA small business loans to eligible Native American Veterans, notwithstanding the residency or location of the business on Tribal Trust (reservation) lands; and

Be it further resolved, That the government of the United States and governing bodies of Indian Nations reach agreement to authorize VA personnel and other federal officers appropriate and necessary access onto Tribal Trust (reservation) Lands as is necessary to administer the Small Business Loan Program

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RESOLUTION No. 182

TO EQUALIZE THE PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF FORMER PHILIPPINE SCOUTS AND THEIR SURVIVORS

Whereas, members of the Philippine Scouts who served during World War II were under the impression that they were a component of American Military Forces; and

Whereas, these Philippine Scouts served with equal honor and under equal combat conditions as did American Military Forces; and

Whereas, such equal service should have been rewarded with equal pay and allowances; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation authorizing equal pay and allowances to former Philippine Scouts or their survivors.

RESOLUTION No. 188

TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL CEMETARY IN EVERY STATE

Whereas, there are many states and regions of the United States without National Cemetary facilities; and

Whereas, federal and state land ideally suited for cemetary development is available in many states; and

Whereas, veterans should be entitled to burial in a National Cemetary reasonably close to their homes; and

Whereas, VA's current policy of regionalization does not always insure that eligible deceased veterans can be interred close to their families; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation to provide for at least one open National Cemetary in each state to insure that all veterans may be buried in a National Cemetary reasonably close to their homes.

RESOLUTION No. 191

SUPPORTING A CHANGE IN THE EFFECTIVE DATE FROM 60 TO 120 DAYS FOR REDUCTION IN VA BENEFITS

Whereas, Section 3012, Title 38, U.S. Code, sets forth the requirement for an effective date when a reduction in benefits is to be made to a claimant; and

Whereas, currently, reduction in benefits is effective the last day of the month following 60 days from the date of notice to the payee; and

Whereas, such reductions in VA benefits often cause a hardship until veterans can adjust their standard of living; and

Whereas, these veterans need a longer period of time in which to adjust to a reduction in their benefits; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that Title 38, U.S. Code be amended to provide that any reduction in service-connected benefits shall be the last day of the month following 120 days from the date of notice to the payee.

RESOLUTION No. 202

TO EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 30 BENEFITS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD CHANGE CONTAINED IN PUBLIC LAW 97-253

Whereas, Public Law 97-253, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982, changed, for payment purposes, the effective date of an original or increased award of VA compensation or pension to the first day of the first full calendar month of entitlement; and

Whereas, this change, as applied to an award of increased compensation under Paragraph 30 of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (temporary, 100 percent ratings due to convalescence required for a service-connected disability) treats those affected veterans unfairly; and

Whereas, this unfair application of the effective date change creates a financial hardship on disabled veterans and their families during a time of personal stress and crisis; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation that would exempt the payment of an increased award of compensation under Paragraph 30 of the VA's Schedule for Rating Disabilities from the effective date change contained in Public Law 97-253.

Resolution No. 223

TO INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE TO $20,000

Whereas, certain veterans are eligible for National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) under Section 722, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, inflation has rapidly increased since NSLI was set at a maximum of $10,000; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that Title 38, U.S. Code be amended to increase the face value of National Service Life Insurance to $20,000.

Resolution No. 225

TO IMPROVE THE VA'S DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Whereas, the rates of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments to eligible beneficiaries are based upon a deceased veteran's former military rank attained while on active duty service; and

Whereas, payments based upon military rank inherently create inequities between those at the top of the scale and those at the bottom; and

Whereas, linking DIC benefit payments for surviving spouses to a veteran's military rank attained many years ago, does not adequately reflect today's standard of living; the loss of income based on current economic conditions; nor recognize the extent to which a service-connected disability impairs earning capacity over a lifetime; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would provide for a more equitable formula on which to base VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments; and

Be it further resolved, That DIC beneficiaries currently on the rolls shall have the option to continue receiving benefits under the current program or to elect benefits under any new proposal adopted by the Congress so long as such election is beneficial to the surviving spouse.

Resolution No. 268

TO ESTABLISH AN AID AND ATTENDANCE/HOUSEBOUND ALLOWANCE FOR HELPLESS DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, increased dependency allowances are presently authorized for service-connected veterans whose spouses demonstrate a need for aid and attendance; and

Whereas, in recognition of the financial burden that dependent children place upon service-connected disabled veterans, current law authorizes dependency allowances for such veterans rated at 30 percent or more disabled; and

Whereas, helpless dependent children place an even greater financial hardship upon service-connected disabled veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend an aid and attendance/housebound allowance for the helpless children of service-connected disabled veterans who are rated at 30 percent or more disabled.

Resolution No. 269

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED CONDITIONS

Whereas, many veterans who have service-connected conditions which, for various reasons, soil and stain their clothing beyond repair are not now entitled to the annual VA clothing allowance; and

Whereas, veterans with such disabilities have incurred expenses in replacing the items of clothing ruined because of their service-connected conditions; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that Section 362, Title 38, U.S. Code be amended to include those veterans with service-connected disorders which cause their clothing to be soiled and ruined.

RESOLUTION No. 270

INCREASE THE VA'S BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE

Whereas, a majority of veterans desire to be buried in a National Cemetery that is located reasonably close to their homes and surviving family members; and

Whereas, many National Cemeteries are not so located and/or are closed and no longer open for burial; and

Whereas, many veterans are thus being buried in private cemeteries which places a great financial obligation on their survivors; and

Whereas, the VA's $150.00 plot allowance payable to the survivors of eligible deceased veterans who are buried in other than National Cemeteries has not been increased since its creation; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 initiate and support legislation in the Congress that would increase the VA's burial plot allowance from $150.00 to $250.00.

RESOLUTION No. 271

IN SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE DATES FOR FUTURE VA SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS AS EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC LAW 98-223

Whereas, the service-connected disability and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation adjustments authorized by Public Law 98-223, the Veterans' Compensation and Program Improvements Act of 1984, represented a six month delay in the receipt of such adjusted rates; and

Whereas, this same Act expressed the sense of the Congress that, commencing with Fiscal Year 1985 and thereafter, all future service-connected disability and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation adjustments shall become effective December 1st of each fiscal year; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the date of December 1st of each year as the effective date of future service-connected disability and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation increases that are legislated by the U.S. Congress.

RESOLUTION No. 272

TO EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, disabled enlisted personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits to which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

Whereas, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving VA compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation which would extend military commissary and exchange privileges, as well as space available air travel aboard military aircraft to enlisted personnel who were discharged from active military service prior to October 1, 1949 for a service-incurred injury or disease rated by the Veterans Administration as 30 percent or more disabling and who retained at least a 30 percent evaluation for a period of five years from the date of separation from active duty.

RESOLUTION No. 273

TO ELEVATE THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO CABINET LEVEL STATUS

Whereas, the Veterans Administration is now the largest independent agency in the federal government; and

Whereas, the VA operates the largest health care system in the world; and

Whereas, the VA implements programs which have the potential to affect over 28 million living veterans and 66 million dependents and survivors of such veterans; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would elevate the Veterans Administration from an independent agency to a cabinet level department.

Resolution No. 274

TO PROVIDE SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR RESIDUAL DISABILITY RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE

Whereas, from 1965 to 1970 some 10.65 million gallons of the chemical defoliant Agent Orange were used extensively through Vietnam; and

Whereas, thousands of U.S. Troops were sprayed directly or were repeatedly exposed to herbicides containing dioxin, and

Whereas, with the exception of a skin condition—chloracne—the Veterans Administration has not granted a single claim for residual disabilities related to exposure to Agent Orange; and

Whereas, Public Law 96-151 mandated the Veterans Administration to conduct a study of the long term health effects on veterans exposed to the variety of phenoxy herbicides used in Vietman; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend service-connection for any identifiable residual disability or disease—scientifically proven to be the result of exposure to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange or any other phenoxy herbicide—incurred by veterans who served in Vietnam.

Resolution No. 278

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO MAINTAIN VA CONTROL OVER ITS RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER

Whereas, there exists a concentrated effort on the part of the General Services Administration to assume jurisdiction over the St. Louis, Missouri Records Processing Center (RPC); and

Whereas, RPC operations are currently controlled by the Veterans Administration, this being necessary as that agency has a daily need for immediate access and transfer of VA records with respect to claims for VA benefits; and

Whereas, a GSA take-over of RPC would greatly impede the VA claims adjudication process and, in fact, destroy the "one stop" agency concept that has been developed for VA claimants; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to provide that the records of all active or potentially active claims for benefits under laws administered by the VA shall be maintained by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 280

IN SUPPORT OF A UNIFORM POLICY TO PROVIDE CEMENT GRAVE LINERS IN ALL NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Whereas, cement grave liners prevent deterioration and enhance maintenance of in-ground burial sites; and

Whereas, the VA presently has no uniform policy of providing cement grave liners throughout its National Cemetery System, utilizing such liners in some cemeteries and not in others; and

Whereas, the burial sites for veterans in our National Cemetery System should be of the highest quality possible; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the VA to establish and maintain a uniform policy of providing cement grave liners in all National Cemeteries.

Resolution No. 282

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO STABILIZE NONPROFIT THIRD CLASS MAIL RATES

Whereas, Congress has historically provided preferred postal rates for charitable, nonprofit organizations so that such organizations can direct greater financial resources into their charitable activities; and

Whereas, the current Administration and some members of Congress have attempted to severely reduce the funding provided to offset the Postal Service costs of providing preferred mail rates to nonprofit charitable organizations; and

Whereas, the reliance upon nonprofits to fulfill the needs of those affected by recent curtailment of state and federal program funding, particularly for the handicapped and the truly needy, has dramatically increased in recent years; and

Whereas, the DAV and other charitable nonprofits must have some form of postal rate stability in order to properly budget and plan their charitable programs and services; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans is a nonprofit charitable organization devoted to the cause of aiding and assisting all service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation to stabilize nonprofit third class mail rates.

Resolution No. 283

TO EXCLUDE MILITARY DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Whereas, the enactment of Public Law 94–455, the Tax Reform Act of 1976, created an anomaly whereby military disability severance pay is considered taxable income for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) purposes; and

Whereas, under IRS regulations, promulgated based upon Public Law 94–455, military disability severance pay is now considered a lump sum readjustment benefit; and

Whereas, veterans who receive disability severance pay from the Armed Forces and who make claims with the Veterans Administration are taxed on the amount of such pay and may not receive the VA benefits to which they may otherwise be entitled until 100 percent of the lump sum severance pay has been recouped by the VA; and

Whereas, VA compensation payments made to veterans who have incurred a disability while on active military duty are exempt from taxes; and

Whereas, the effect of such action by the Internal Revenue Service amounts to a tax upon the payment of benefits for disability incurred in or aggravated by active military service; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would expressly prohibit a tax levied on military disability severance pay.

Resolution No. 284

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE POSTAL SERVICE REVENUE FOREGONE FUND

Whereas, Congress has historically provided preferred postal rates for charitable nonprofit organizations so that such organizations can direct greater financial resources into their charitable activities; and

Whereas, the current Administration has attempted to severely reduce the funding provided to the Postal Service revenue foregone fund; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans is a nonprofit charitable organization devoted to the cause of aiding and assisting all service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21–25, 1985 seek the enactment of adequate appropriations for the funding of the Postal Service revenue foregone fund.

RESOLUTION No. 285

TO INCREASE THE DISABILITY EVALUATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED BILATERAL DEAFNESS

Whereas, the maximum VA rating for service-connected total deafness in both ears is 80 per centum with increased compensation payable for a statutory award under Subsection (k) of Section 314, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, many of these veterans are unable to obtain substantial, gainful employment due solely to the condition of total deafness in both ears; and

Whereas, in most instances, the VA maintains "that total deafness is not a cause of unemployability in the case of the average person affected;" and

Whereas, there are approximately 1,411 service-connected totally deaf veterans in receipt of only the maximum 80 percent evaluation plus the statutory "K" award; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21–25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would amend Section 360 of Title 38, U.S. Code to require that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs assign and pay to service-connected veterans suffering total deafness of both ears the applicable rate under Subsection 314(j) of Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Be it further resolved, That the Administrator shall assign and pay similar total disability benefits to all other cases of service-connected total deafness not provided for in Section 360 of Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 286

TO ESTABLISH A PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSIS

Whereas, Section 301 of Title 38, U.S. Code sets forth the chronic diseases for which a presumption of service-connection can be established if such a condition manifests to a compensable degree within one year from the date of separation from a period of wartime service; and

Whereas, Lupus Erythematosis is a chronic disorder of unknown etiology; and

Whereas, the onset of this disease, in many instances, is insidious, extending over a period of months or frequently years; and

Whereas, a definite diagnosis of Lupus Erythematosis often can be established only on a history of symptoms; and

Whereas, the DAV believes that this disease, by reason of its insidious characteristics and difficult early detection, should be included among those chronic diseases for which service-connection may be granted on a presumptive basis; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21–25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would amend Section 301 of Title 38, U.S. Code to include Lupus Erythematosis in the list of those chronic diseases for which service-connection may be established.

RESOLUTION No. 288

TO PROVIDE MORTGAGE PROTECTION LIFE INSURANCE TO ELIGIBLE VETERANS BEYOND THEIR SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY

Whereas, the Administrator is authorized to purchase mortgage protection life insurance for service-connected disabled veterans who have obtained housing assistance under Section 801(a), Title 38, U.S. Code—specially adapted housing; and

Whereas, Section 806(h)(i)(2), Title 38, U.S. Code provides for termination of such insurance coverage on such housing upon the veteran attaining the age of seventy (70); and

Whereas, this is the singular provision of Title 38, U.S. Code that predicates age as a determining factor for the receipt of a benefit based upon service-connected disability; and

Whereas, this restrictive provision of law creates an inequity between the aged veteran and similarly situated younger veteran with equally incapacitating severe service-connected disabilities; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to correct this inequity by deleting Section 806(h)(i)(2) from current law, thereby enabling veterans to retain mortgage life insurance beyond the age of seventy (70).

Resolution No. 289

TO ELIMINATE THE DELIMITING DATE FOR ELIGIBLE SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES FOR BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER CHAPTER 35

Whereas, dependents and survivors eligible for VA education benefits under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code have ten years in which to apply for and complete a program of education; and

Whereas, this ten year period begins either from the date a veteran is evaluated by the VA as permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or ten years from the date of such veteran's death due to service-connected disability; and

Whereas, in many instances, because of family obligations or the need to provide care to the veteran, spouses or surviving spouses may not have had an opportunity to apply for these benefits; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses for purposes of benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code.

Resolution No. 292

EXTEND FROM ONE YEAR TO TWO YEARS THE PERIOD TO APPLY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE

Whereas, Section 722, Title 38, U.S. Code, provides service-connected disabled veterans one year from the date that service-connection for disability is initially established by the VA in which to apply for NSLI; and

Whereas, many young veterans are solicited by private insurance companies immediately following their discharge from service, which has often caused confusion for such veterans when evaluating their need for life insurance; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that Section 722, Title 38, U.S. Code be amended to extend from one to two years the period in which service-connected disabled veterans may apply for National Service Life Insurance.

Resolution No. 293

TO EXTEND LOW-INTEREST HOME LOANS TO VETERANS ELIGIBLE UNDER THE VA SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING PROGRAM

Whereas, Section 801, Title 38, U.S. Code, provides $35,500 to certain eligible service-connected veterans for assistance in obtaining specially adapted homes; and

Whereas, interest rates in today's market may in some instances be a prohibitive factor in permitting these severely disabled veterans to either modify their existing homes or to construct new homes: and

Whereas, the Department of Housing and Urban Development currently administers a program which subsidizes 4% home mortgages for certain seriously handicapped citizens; and

Whereas, similar benefits should be made available for service-connected disabled veterans eligible for assistance under the VA specially adapted housing program; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would authorize the Veterans Administration to extend federally subsidized low-interest loans to veterans eligible for VA specially adapted housing award.

Resolution No. 294

INCREASE IN VA SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING AWARD AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN SERIOUSLY DISABLED SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS

Whereas, Section 801(a) of Title 38, U.S. Code, provides a program of specially adapted housing for service-connected veterans who suffer the loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, or blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus the loss or loss of use of one lower extremity, or who suffer the loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with residuals of organic disease or injury or the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity which so affect the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair; and

Whereas, Section 801(b) of Title 38, U.S. Code provides a special program of housing assistance for blinded service-connected veterans and veterans who suffer the service-connected loss or loss of use of both upper extremities due to the difficulties they encounter in functioning within their own home; and

Whereas, the cost of home construction and/or alteration has increased significantly in recent years; and

Whereas, these seriously disabled veterans find it difficult to secure appropriate housing for themselves and their families; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to increase the maximum amount ($35,500) of the VA specially adapted housing award and the maximum amount ($6,000) of the VA specially adapted housing assistance.

Resolution No. 319

OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF THE SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Whereas, a Senate Study Group has recommended elimination of the Veterans Affairs Committee as a separate standing Committee in the United States Senate; and

Whereas, the Veterans Administration, the third largest of all federal departments and agencies, annually provides billions of dollars of benefits and services to millions of American veterans and their families and should not have its affairs administered in the Congress by anything less than a separate standing Committee in both Houses; and

Whereas, the elimination of the Veterans Affairs Committee in the U.S. Senate would greatly inhibit the ability of the Disabled American Veterans and others to successfully pursue passage of beneficial veterans' legislation in that body; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any action that would eliminate, transfer or downgrede the Veterans Affairs Committee in the United States Senate.

Resolution No. 322

TO PROVIDE A TEN YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY EVALUATIONS

Whereas, Section 110, of Title 38, U.S. Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more years; and

Whereas, permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for ten years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 that Section 110 of Title 38, U.S. Code, be amended to provide that disability evaluations continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of ten years.

RESOLUTION No. 325

OPPOSING THE MERGER OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION WITH ANY FEDERAL AGENCY

Whereas, the Veterans Administration is dedicated to the welfare of and providing assistance to disabled veterans; and

Whereas, the Department of Health and Human Services is dedicated to the welfare assistance of other American citizens; and

Whereas, the problems that confront disabled veterans are unique and require the undivided attention of a separate agency with expertise in this field; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 strongly oppose any attempt to merge the Veterans Administration with any other federal agency.

RESOLUTION No. 326

OPPOSING ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD OFFSET PAYMENTS OF VA COMPENSATION BY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL BENEFIT

Whereas, there has been consideration given to proposing an offset of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits by payments of any other federal benefit; and

Whereas, the adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to those service-connected veterans who have a compensable disability and who also suffer a permanent and total disability for purposes of Disability Insurance Benefits from the Social Security Administration; and

Whereas, such an offset would work a grave and undue hardship on all totally disabled service-connected veterans and their families by drastically reducing their total income; and

Whereas, benefits received from the Veterans Administration or under military retirement pay and other federal programs have differing eligibility criteria as compared to the earned payments of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any measure which proposes to offset the payment of any other federal benefits or earned benefit entitlement by VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 341

PROVIDE JUDICIAL REVIEW OF VETERANS' CLAIMS

Whereas, decisions of the Veterans Administration are final; and

Whereas, no other official or court of the United States has the power or jurisdiction to review VA decisions; and

Whereas, the scope of Board of Veterans Appeals decisions cannot exceed the regulations promulgated by the Veterans Administration; and

Whereas, in certain instances veterans should have the right to challenge a VA decision; and

Whereas, all other federal agencies are subject to judicial review as outlined in Chapter 7 of Title 5, U.S. Code; now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National convention assembled in New Orleans, LA. July 21-25, 1985 that a Court of Justice, composed of impartial civilian personnel, not affiliated with the Veterans Administration, the military or General Accounting Office, be established; and

Be it further resolved, That this body is to have final jurisdiction in cases which have been denied by the current existing Board of Veterans Appeals.

RESOLUTION No. 383

DISABILITY COMPENSATION INCREASE

Whereas, it is the historical policy of the Disabled American Veterans that this nation's first duty to veterans is to provide for the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled; and

Whereas, the percentage ratings for service-connected disabilities represents, as far as can be practicably determined, the average impairment in earnings capacity resulting from such diseases and injuries in civil occupations; and

Whereas, compensation increases should be based on the loss of earnings capacity; and

Whereas, disabled veterans who are unable to work because of service-connected disabilities should be entitled to compensation payents commensurate with the after tax earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to bring the standard of living of disabled veterans in line with that which they would have enjoyed had they not suffered their service-connected disabilities.

RESOLUTION No. 385

TO ESTABLISH A HOUSEBOUND ALLOWANCE UNDER THE VA'S DEPENDENT PARENT DIC PROGRAM

Whereas, the monthly rate of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or non-service-connected death pension payable to a surviving spouse may be increased if such spouse requires the (1) aid and attendance of another person or (2) is permanently housebound by reason of disability; and

Whereas, a parent in receipt of DIC and who requires the aid and attendance of another person may also receive an increased amount of DIC benefits due to such helplessness; and

Whereas, the parent, however, who is receiving DIC benefits and is permanently housebound by reason of disability is not eligible to receive increased benefits as the law does not now provide such a housebound allowance which is currently provided to eligible surviving spouses under the non-service-connected death pension and DIC programs; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation to establish a housebound allowance under the VA's Dependent Parent DIC Program thereby providing equal benefits to similarly situated VA beneficiaries.

RESOLUTION No. 387

TO LIBERALIZE SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR CHRONIC DISEASES

Whereas, Section 301 of Title 38, U.S. Code sets forth the various chronic diseases for which a presumption of service-connection may be established; and

Whereas, Section 312(a)(1) of Title 38, U.S. code requires a finding of compensable impairment within one year from the date of separation from active duty military service before service-connection may be granted for any of the chronic diseases listed in Section 301; and

Whereas, the list of diseases currently contained in Section 301 have been carefully selected by the Congress so as to only include those diseases which are chronic in nature; and

Whereas, chronic diseases are by virtue long-term and often insidious impairments; and

Whereas, the current requirement of a finding of a compensable impairment within one year of the date of separation from active duty wartime service often results in the denial of service-connection for a disease that had its onset during active duty military service; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek the enactment of legislation which would amend Section 312 of Title 38, U.S. code to eliminate the provision which predicates service-connection upon the manifestation to a compensable degree within one year from the date of separation from active duty service for any of the diseases listed in Section 301 of Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 388

OPPOSING THE LIFTING OF PRIVATE ATTORNEY FEE RESTRICTIONS FOR VA BENEFIT REPRESENTATION

Whereas, legislation presently pending in the Congress would remove current attorney fee restrictions for VA benefit representation; and

Whereas, such a removal would open up a lucrative multimillion-dollar "bonanza" for attorneys, funnelling compensation dollars out of the pockets of disabled veterans and into the pockets of attorneys as has been the case in Social Security and Black Lung Claims; and

Whereas, presently veterans and their families receive high quality free representation through the service programs of the various veterans' organization; and

Whereas, insofar as the DAV is concerned, our National Service Officers (NSOs) provide higher quality representation than private attorneys, to wit:

1. In Fiscal Year 1984 before the Board of Veterans Appeals, the DAV represented 18,945 claims (44 percent of all BVA claims) and had a favorable decision rate of 16.0 percent.

2. In the same fiscal year private attorneys represented 854 claims (1.9 percent of all BVA cases) and had a favorable decision rate of 15.3 percent; and

Whereas, this data does not adequately reflect the quality of DAV representation since DAV NSOs are required to initiate appellate action whenever requested to do so by the claimant while private attorneys "pick and choose" accepting only those cases where they feel there is a probability of securing a favorable decision; and

Whereas, in claims presented before VA Central Office for Administrative Review, where the DAV is permitted to "pick and choose" cases for consideration, the records show an allowance rate of 91 percent of all cases submitted in Fiscal Year 1984; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 oppose any legislation which would remove or modify the present statutory attorney fee restrictions for VA representation.

RESOLUTION No. 389

LIBERALIZATION OF LENGTH OF MARRIAGE CRITERIA FOR DIC AWARDS UNDER SECTION 410(b), TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits shall be awarded on a "presumptive basis" to the surviving spouses and minor children of certain veterans who were totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected disability at time of death; and

Whereas, such DIC awards cannot be made to surviving spouses unless they were married to such veterans for not less than two years immediately proceding the veterans' death; and

Whereas, under the length of marriage criteria in Section 404, Title 38, U.S. Code, an award of DIC based upon a VA determination that a service-connected disability was a direct or contributory factor to the cause of death shall be awarded to surviving spouses of veterans dying after December 31, 1956:

1. For any length of marriage if such marriage occurred within 15 years of the termination of the period of service in which the disease or injury causing death was incurred or aggravated; or

2. For any length of marriage if a child was born of or before the marriage; or

3. For any marriage one year or more in length; and

Whereas, the length of marriage requirement for DIC awards under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code is deemed to be unduly restrictive; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support legislation that would change the length of marriage criteria for DIC awards under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code to bring it in line with that specified in Section 404 of Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 390

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ALL VA PROGRAMS

Whereas, understaffing of VA programs in recent years has hampered the VA's ability to effective administer programs intended to benefit this nation's veterans; and

Whereas, continued efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the VA budget will lead to further deterioration of all VA programs; and

Whereas, this nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of the country; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 seek and strongly support adequate funding for all VA programs.

RESOLUTION No. 392

TO EXTEND COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES ON THE BASIS OF AN AWARD OF DIC BENEFITS

Whereas, current Department of Defense regulations authorize military commissary and exchange privileges to a broad category of active and retired military personnel, their dependents and survivors; and

Whereas, these regulations authorize such privileges to the spouses of living veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability and to the survivors of veterans who were permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at time of death; and

Whereas, the survivors of veterans whose service-connected impairments were evaluated at less than totally disabling bu whose deaths were determined to be service related are denied these privileges; now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, LA, July 21-25, 1985 support the enactment of legislation that would authorize military commissary and exchange privileges for the survivors of veterans whose deaths were found ot be related to a service-connected disability.

Next I will recognize Richard C. Payton, Sr., Vice Commander of Pennsylvania.

RICHARD C. PAYTON, SR. [Vice Commander, Pennsylvania]. Commander Colley, I would like to present to you this book titled "Fighting Back" by Rocky Bleier, from Rocky Bleier to you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. I now recognize the Adjutant for announcements.

Adjutant ADAMS. Well, Commander, before making announcements, I want to compliment the Convention Committees. We have wound up most of our work, with the exception of the final reading tomorrow of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and we have set a record for a National Convention and I compliment all of you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask the Chaplain to lead us in prayer.

Chaplain DEVINE. Let us pray.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

We give Thee thanks, Almighty God, for all Your blessings. Amen.

Commander COLLEY. This Convention stands at recess until 9:30 tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, the Convention recessed at 2:50 p.m.]

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

July 23, 1985

The Tuesday morning session of the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA, July 23, 1985, and was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commander Chad Colley.

Commander **COLLEY**. The convention will please come to order.

Will you stand and extend the proper recognition to our flag.

[Salute to flag.]

[Pledge of Allegiance was given.]

Father Devine, will you please lead us in prayer as we open our meeting this morning.

Chaplain **DEVINE**. Let us pray.

Lord God, grant that all our works this morning will begin and end with You. Bless this gathered assembly of Disabled American Veterans. Let it be productive for the extension of Your kingdom here and now and hereafter.

May the fellowship and hospitality we share bring us together in Your Peace. Bless those less fortunate than we. Strengthen our resolve to serve You in serving others. Amen.

Commander **COLLEY**. Be seated.

In order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state his name, his chapter number and the state he represents.

Now I would like to call upon the Chairman of the Credentials Committee for a partial report.

Commander **DENNIS R. GUERNSEY** [Credentials Committee]. Commander Colley and delegates.

The Credentials Committee met at 8:00 a.m. this morning in the Poydras Room here in the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. The roll call showed 1,595 delegates and 56 alternates present.

This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of registration at 3:15 p.m. on July 22, 1985.

At the present time we have 619 Chapters, 33 Departments, 24 National Officers, 10 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,595 delegates and 56 alternates, for a total vote of 10,037.

Commander, this completes the partial report of the Credentials Committee.

Commander **COLLEY**. Thank you.

Now I would like to introduce Richard J. Cosgriff, the President of the DAV Service Foundation, for his report.

RICHARD J. COSGRIFF [President, National Service Foundation]. Thank you very much, Commander.

Father Devine has already advised me that he has instructed his ushers to be in the back of the room and pass out the word that when it comes time to loosen up on the money, bring it forward, that he will help collect it. [Laughter.]

National Commander Colley, National Officers, Delegates and Distinguished Guests all:

This is the report of the DAV National Service Foundation, which we make our annual report to the convention.

You have received the reports of our National DAV leaders, who have listed this year's victories and successes due to hard work and encouragement from you, the members. Our report reflects the same continued progress due to your support of our program.

As Chairman of the Board, I am assisted by such distinguished DAV members as National Commander Chad Colley; the Chairman of the National Finance Committee John Peluse; Past National Commander Cecil Stevenson, who is Vice-President of the Board; William Leach, National Service Officer, Secretary-Treasurer; William McCartin, from Maryland, Trustee; and John Sloan, from Montana, Trustee.

I wish to inform you that John Sloan and myself have been re-elected to serve a two-year term on the Board.

The members of the Board wish to extend their personal gratitude to National Adjutant Dale Adams; Assistant National Adjutant Tom Dehne; Dick Wilson; and Judge Advocate Bonnie Maile and their staffs for invaluable support that they give us during the year and their assistance, and they are always there to give it to us.

Your contributions for 1984 exceeded $218,307. Of this, a sizable portion was credited to our National Service Officers, who continuously inform their clients of this worthwhile cause for you. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the donors and particularly all the participating National Service Officers.

Since our last convention report, we have increased a total of $664,731, for a net worth as of June 30th—and I'm proud to report we broke the three million mark—$3,062,821. This includes contributions and interest from our investments. We also wish to recognize an estate of $78,466 that we received from Eugene Mote, one of our long-time members from Arkansas who recently passed away.

The National Order of Trench Rats, as a major contributor to the Foundation, have an established fund of $118,428. The interest earned on this fund is turned over annually to the National Organization to assist in carrying on the legislative program headed by Rick Heilman and his staff.

Commander Colley, at this time I wish to present to you this check in the amount of $13,995, which represents the interest we earned this year from the National Order of Trench Rats Legislative Fund. [Applause.]

We have reached the three million dollar milestone in our goal to perpetuate the services available to you, our members. The annual report that you received in your convention packet—and I hope you all have it—gives credit to our members who made possible this record of progress.

As we reflect on this honor role, there appear many names of decreased members from various states that you all have worked with at these conventions—men who saw the need to continue the main purpose of our organization, which is service. Because of their contributions, their names will live on in the history of the DAV.

This history is not complete unless Chapters and Departments recognize their departed members who helped perpetuate the DAV as the foremost service organization in their local cities and their local Departments.

It is the goal of the Foundation to have every Chapter and Department of the DAV listed in the perpetual honor roll. The National Executive Committee has approved a program to enable us to correspond with each Department and chapter, and a letter will be sent to each Chapter and Department to encourage the contribution of $100 in an effort to accomplish this feat, and to have your Chapter and Department listed in this honor roll. And when you come each year, your Chapter and your Department will be listed.

We wish to recognize the invaluable assistance that we receive from National Secretaries Sandy Buchanan, who is always here to help, Nancy O'Brien, Kay Redman, Mary Ann Pflum. These are all located at the Cincinnati headquarters.

Our annual audit, January 1 through December 31, 1984, has been completed by Deloitte, Haskins & Sells and will be published in the official records of this convention.

In closing, I would like to bring to your attention the establishment of a National Memorial Fund for three long-time members, members that you all knew, and they were very faithful supporters of our Foundation and of the organization: Jimmy Pellegrini, we established a memorial fund for Jim, he passed away during the past year, from Detroit, Michigan; P. D. Jackson, which all of us have known P. D., from Dallas, Texas; and Bill Surgi, from right here in New Orleans, who was a long-time member of this Foundation, and he just recently passed away, in the last two weeks. Those wishing to honor their memory may do so, as we accept contributions.

Commander Colley, this concludes my report and I would like to move for its acceptance.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion to accept the report of the DAV National Service Foundation.

Mike Two.

Mr. HALSEY. Glen Halsey, Department Commander, Department of California, seconds.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion and a second to approve the report of the Foundation.

On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed the same sign. Motion carries and so ordered.

Chairman COSGRIFF. Thank you very much, Commander.

I have a few checks here that I would like to read off so it will be in the record.

I have received one here from Bonnie Maile, our National Judge Advocate, for the Jimmy Pellerini Memorial Fund.

I have another from Denvel Adams for the Memorial Fund of Jim Pellegrini and P.D. Jackson, for $200.

And another one from Fred Bristol for the Jim Pellegrini Memorial Fund, $100.

And a contribution—this ought to make you smile a little bit, because this is supposed to be the No. 1 city to live in the country—Pittsburgh. This is a check for $250 from Greater Pittsburgh Chapter No. 8, for present and past Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. And this was submitted by the Commander of the Chapter.

Commander COLLEY. As you can see, there are a number of people who wish to make contributions to the Foundation. While you are assembling to your right of the podium, I'd like to recognize Odell Vaughn, from the Veterans Life Insurance Company, for a presentation to the Foundation.

Mr. ODELL W. VAUGHN [Veterans Life Insurance Company]. Thank you, Commander.

On behalf of the Veterans Life Insurance Company, it gives me great pleasure, being a life member of this organization, to present to you a check for $2,500. This is their token of gratitude for your services. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Thank you very much.

Chairman COSGRIFF. Thank you.

We have a couple of ladies in the line here. I know they have to get back to the Auxiliary meeting, so we are going to allow them to come ahead first.

AUXILIARY MEMBER. Dick, on behalf of Unit No. 20, in Glendale, Arizona, we'd like to present this check to the Foundation in the amount of $500.

Chairman COSGRIFF. Thank you very much. [Applause.] Now you know why I take them first. [Laughter.]

FROM THE FLOOR. Stop that! [Laughter.]

Chairman COSGRIFF. I have a check here from Chad Colley for Al King Memorial for $100. [Applause.]

And from Al and Pat Linden, a check for $500. [Applause.]

From Ken Musselmann, $100 in memory of Jim Pellegrini. [Applause.]

PNC OLIVER E. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, a little long green for my old buddy P.D Jackson.

Chairman COSGRIFF. Well, as you know, P.D. Jackson always gave us in cash and our Past National Commander is going to carry on the tradition. He gives it to us in cash, $100.

Mr. NORMAN HARTNETT. Dick, they say that which is repetitious is boring, but my poker-playing buddies want me to assure you that conveying their money through me to the Foundation is not boring, and here's $100. [Laughter.]

Chairman COSGRIFF. Thank you for that, another $100. [Applause.]

Mr. MIKE WALSH [Chapter 2, Missouri]. I have a check for $1,000 from Ernestine Schumann Heink.

Chairman COSGRIFF. This is a check for $1,000 from Chapter No. 2, Kansas City, Missouri. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. I realize, gentlemen, that it's difficult during this time to be quiet, but the stenographer is having difficulty taking down these things for proper inclusion in the record. Would you please hold it down in the audience and also in line.

DAV MEMBER. Dick, this check for $600 is presented by the Past Department Commanders Association of Arizona in memory of our Past Department Commanders, Robert W. Cooper, Howard W. Hadley, William B. McKinzie, Nelson A. Greguire, Howard Steinmetz, and Bernard Wisnuski, $600.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much. [Applause.] I made a promise to Jim Murphy today that California wouldn't take any more members from Arizona. [Laughter.]

DAV **Member**. Dick, this is for the deceased members of Long Beach Chapter 17, California, in the amount of $200.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **John Sloan**. At this time I'd like to present a check in the amount of $100 for the Honorable Judge John B. McClernan of Butte, Montana, the father of the perpetual rehab fund. I want to tell you people that every chapter in the state of Montana has set up a PRF and now we're working on our Auxiliary and we are sure we're going to accomplish it.

I would like to see every member in this hall come back next year and set up a PRF in your own name. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, John.

DAV **Member**. Dick, this check in the amount of $5,000 is presented on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans in Fresno, California.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. $5,000. This is from Fresno. [Applause.]

DAV **Member**. We're honored to present this check to the National Service Foundation for $100 for all the members from Chapter 4, Wichita, Kansas.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much. This is from Wichita, Kansas. [Applause.]

DAV **Member**. This is my personal check to one of the greatest causes that I can think of. I wish I could make it more. I think this $100 will help.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. We appreciate it very much. Utica, New York. [Applause.]

DAV **Member**. I would like to present a check for $513.82 from the Colorado Lifers Club.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, sir. [Applause.]

DAV **Member**. I'd like to present a check from Feather River Chapter 71 for $100 and encourage every chapter in the department of California to donate $100.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you. [Applause.]

Don Pouliot [Senior Vice Commander, Department of California]. I'd like to present a personal check for $200 in memory of our Past National Commander Bill Dwyer, who introduced me to the DAV. Thank you.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you, Don. [Applause.]

Edward L. Wallace [Commander, Department of Missouri]. I present you this check for $250.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you. $250. [Applause.]

DAV **Member**. Dick, I'd like to present this check from Mrs. Nettie Cemeris, in honor of her husband who passed away May 3rd, from San Diego, for $150.

I would like to present checks totalling $1,117.55 from Jerome Herman and Eileen Mason, owners of The Spot in La Jolla, in honor of the San Diego National Service Office. Thank you.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you. [Applause.]

DAV **Member**. Dick, I have two checks to present here, one for $1,300 from Glendale Chapter No. 20, Arizona, bringing right now to $8,500 of our $10,000 pledge.

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And I also have a private check from Mr. Don Harmon for $700.

From the floor. We can't hear.

Chairman **Coscriff.** This is a check for $700 from Donald Harmon, from Glendale, Arizona, and a check for $1,300 from Glendale Chapter No. 20, in Glendale, Arizona.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

DAV **Member.** Dick, this is a check from San Diego Chapter 2 in memory of our departed comrade Past National Commander William (Bill) Dwyer.

Chairman **Coscriff.** Thank you very much. $2,000. [Applause.]

DAV **Member.** Mr. Chairman, this is a pledge from the great state of Oklahoma, the western half of the new District 21. We pledge you $2,000, $1,000 the 1st of August and $1,000 the 1st of January.

Chairman **Coscriff.** We'll see that you pay it. [Laughter.]

Thank you. [Applause.]

DAV **Member.** On behalf of the members of Shelby County Chapter 70, Memphis, Tennessee, we'd like to present this check for $5,000. Thank you.

Chairman **Coscriff.** Thank you, sir. This is $5,000 from Memphis. [Applause.]

DAV **Member.** We have a check here from the 14th District, that comprises Montana, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota. Unfortunately there is no listing in the book at the present time for district contributions, and herewith we request that you place this $500 under a special listing for districts.

Chairman **Coscriff.** We'll see that that's done. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Deeds.** Mr. Chairman, Commander Chuck Deeds, from the North Star State Department of Minnesota. We make this presentation in the amount of $5,000.

Chairman **Coscriff.** Thank you very much.

DAV **Member.** Mr. Chairman, a check for $500 from the Department of New Hampshire.

Chairman **Coscriff.** Thank you, sir. $500 from the Department of New Hampshire. [Applause.]

DAV **Member.** Mr. Chairman, in memory of Loftin Lewis, Department of Arkansas, $100.

Chairman **Coscriff.** Thank you. $100. [Applause.]

DAV **Member.** Dick, first I'd like to present this check from Dennis and Donna Joyner for $100.

Also I'd like to make a presentation of $200 cash money from the Southern Caucus in the name of our great friend P. D. Jackson.

Chairman **Coscriff.** Thank you very much, sir. [Applause.]

That's a little bundle of cash for P.D. Jackson and $100 from Dennis Joyner. Thank you very much.

DAV **Member.** Dick, on behalf of the Past Department Commanders and Auxiliary Commanders from Minnesota I have this check for $320.

Chairman **Coscriff.** Thank you very much, Don. [Applause.]

DAV **Member.** Mr. Chairman, it's an honor for me to be up here this morning to present this check for $1,000 from the great state of North Carolina, Department of North Carolina.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you very much. $1,000 from the Department of North Carolina. [Applause.]

Mr. Acker. Mr. Chairman, Grant Acker, the Department Commander of the Free State of Maryland, the home state of our Senior Vice Commander Al Linden, in a continuing effort to support this great program, the state of Maryland wishes to contribute $10,000 to the National Service Foundation. [Applause.]

Chairman Cosgriff. Great! Great!

Mr. Acker. And following the lead of the great state of Montana, the state of Maryland wishes to announce that every chapter in the state of Maryland is here to contribute and follows me, at least $100 or more.

Let's all follow the great state of Montana.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you very much. Thank you, Commander. [Applause.]

Mr. DeMartini. Mr. Chairman, DeMartini, Commander Chapter 36, the parent chapter of Al Linden.

I have two checks totaling $200 from the PFC John C. DeMarr Chapter 36, of Maryland.

And I have another chapter's check, of southern Maryland, Chapter 20, for $100.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. Bullen. Mr. Chairman, Harry Bullen, Chapter 28, Cecil County, Maryland.

I'd like to present two checks from Dundalk Number 21, Maryland, and Baltimore County No. 8, Maryland.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you very much.

Mr. Bullen. You're welcome.

Chairman Cosgriff. They're both for $100?

Mr. Bullen. Yes, for $100.

Chairman Cosgriff. Both these checks are for $100, $100 apiece. [Applause.]

Mr. Bamberger. Mr. Chairman, Richard Bamberger, Senior Vice Commander, Department of Maryland, Past Commander of Chapter 36, Al Linden's chapter.

I have two checks here, one for Old Glory Chapter 22 and Edward T. Conroy Chapter 9, $100 each.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. Patterson. Mr. Chairman, Richard Patterson, Chapter 12, Rockville, Maryland.

I also have two checks here for $100 each, one from Chapter 11 in Maryland and the other from chapter 28, Maryland.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. Gustin. Mr. Chairman, Keith Gustin, Chapter 25, of Beltsville, Maryland.

I have a check for $100 from Washington Lee Chapter No. 5 and from BOASI Chapter No. 24.

From the floor. We can't hear.

Chairman Cosgriff. These checks are also both from Maryland, one from Washington Lee Chapter No. 5 and the BOASI Chapter No. 24. [Applause.]

Have you noticed each one of these gentlemen who have come up here, these comrades come up, and they are each presenting two checks. One is a high number and one is a low number, but always for $100. [Laughter.]

PNC **Thompson**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Paul Thompson, Past National Commander, member of Baltimore Chapter No. 1.

I have two checks to present to the Foundation, one from Fort Washington Chapter No. 2 and one from Prince George Chapter No. 25, each one for $100. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, Commander.

Mr. **Kowalczyk**. Mr. Chairman, my name is Ed Kowalczyk. I'm the Adjutant of George Seal Chapter No. 23 in Maryland.

I have two checks to present, one from Ralph S. Tagg, Jr., Chapter 14, Maryland, for $100, and one from Laurel, Chapter 27, Maryland, for another $100.

Thank you.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, sir. [Applause.]

Mr. **Corson**. Mr. Chairman, my name is Jack Corson. I'm the Senior Vice Commander for Chapter No. 33, Maryland.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Speak louder.

Mr. **Corson**. I have a check for $100 in the name of General Melvin J. Mass, Chapter 17, Maryland.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **Surgi**. I'm Bill Surgi, Jr. I am now a resident of Maryland and a member of DAV Chapter 12, which is from Maryland's second largest city, Rockville, Maryland.

And in memory of my father, who brought me up in DAV Chapter 6, right here in New Orleans, as a youngster, I would like to present on behalf of my chapter, in my father's memory, a check for $100.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, Bill. [Applause.]

Mr. **Slade**. Mr. Chairman, Major Slade, Baltimore, Maryland, Chapter No. 1.

We would like to present $100 to the National Service Foundation.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms. **Kushto**. Mr. Chairman, Clara Kushto, Chapter 16, Baltimore, Maryland.

I have three checks, donations from Chapters 4, 13 and 23 of Maryland.

I thank you.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. They're for $100 apiece. [Applause.]

Ms. **Newberger**. Mr. Chairman, I'm Dorothy Newberger. I'm the Department Sergeant at Arms for the State of Maryland, and I'm from Chapter 16.

But I'd like to present these checks in the amount of $100 from 26 and 7.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Speak right into the mike

Mr. **Azzaro**. I'm George Azzaro, Baltimore, Chapter 16.

I have two checks from L.L. Merrill 13, 3, and from Maryland Topp 29.

Thank you.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Wilson**. I'm Bob Wilson, Past Department Commander, Department of Maryland, and a life member of Chapter 30 in Bel Air, Harford County, $100. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Gordon**. George Gordon. I'm the Senior Vice Commander of Chapter 15, Maryland.

We have a check for $100. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Duchaine**. I'm Vic Duchaine, Commander, Chapter 10, Maryland, the 1st Junior Vice of the Department of Maryland.

I present you a check for $100 from Chapter 10 and $100 from Cambridge 31. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Binick**. Good morning. Mr. Chairman, I'm Past Department Commander Conrad Binick. I'm presently the Department Chaplain of Maryland and also the Commander of Free State Chapter No. 16, Baltimore, Maryland.

I'd like to present a check for $100 from Free State Chapter No. 16 and also $100 from Eastern Shore Chapter No. 34. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you, sir.

Mr. **Cunningham**. Mr. Chairman, my name is Pete Cunningham, Chapter 17 of Maryland.

I donate this sum of $100 for Salisbury Chapter 19, Maryland. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Phillips**. I'm Goerge Phillips, Past Commander of Chapter 21 in Dundalk, Maryland, and I am at present Officer of the Day of the Department of Maryland.

I have two checks, one from Towson Chapter No. 18 in Maryland and one from the Sarge Wareham Post 33 of Maryland, for $100 apiece. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much.

Chairman **Craddock**. Mr. Chairman, Bascom Craddock, Department Commander, Mississippi.

I have three checks. First I have $1,000 from the Department of Mississippi and as Commander of Meridian, Mississippi, Chapter 56, I have a check for $100, and on behalf of my wife of 38 years, Helen Craddock, I have a check for $100. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Acker**. Mr. Chairman, that finished up the Maryland delegation. So far this year we have over $10,333. We hope that all of the states would have all of their chapters 100 percent for this great Service Foundation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you, sir. [Applause.]

Mr. **Hitt**. Mr. Chairman, Bill Hitt, Past Department Commander of Mississippi. For my wife and myself, a one hundred bill.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you. [Applause.]

DAV Member. Mr. Chairman, I notice you're taking out-of-state checks. That's the only place in Louisiana that's doing it right now.

So I'd like to present on behalf of Murphy Borelli two checks in the amount of $100——

Am I not close enough to the microphone?

From the floor. No!

DAV **Member.** Now am I close enough?

From the floor. Yes.

DAV **Member.** I said this is the only place I've been in Louisiana I've been able to pass a—now, this is not passing—I'm giving an out-of-state check. These are two checks, one for $100 for the National Service Foundation from our chapter in behalf of George Coleman, deceased Commander, and from the chapter also another check for $100.

We appreciate very much everything the National Service Foundation has done for us and that we have been able to do for it.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff.** Thank you very much, sir. And we'll be most happy to take out-of-state checks.

DAV **Member.** Any out-of-state checks are good? [Laughter.]

DAV **Member.** Mr. Chairman, I'm a Past Commander of Granite City, Illinois, Chapter 53, and this is the present Commander.

We have a check here for $1,000 that's become a habit with us. This makes us $5,000 for the last five years.

Chairman **Cosgriff.** We appreciate it very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **Cherry.** Mr. Chairman, I would like to present $100.

My name is Russ Cherry, Jr., from DAV Chapter 91, Pinellas Park, Florida.

It's $100 in memory of Ed Leclair, our past Treasurer, who passed away Monday, the 21st.

Chairman **Cosgriff.** Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Spezia.** Mr. Chairman, my name is Tony Spezia. I'm the Commander of Chapter 1 in the city of St. Louis.

In memory of all of our deceased Commanders of our chapter, I wish to present this check in the amount of $1,000.

Chairman **Cosgriff.** Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **Morris.** Mr. Chairman, I'm Ken Morris, Senior Vice Commander, St. Louis Chapter No. 1.

On behalf of the Auxiliary Unit No. 1, I would like to present this check.

Chairman **Cosgriff.** Thank you very much. It's for $100. [Applause.]

Mr. **Dedese.** Mr. Chairman, this is Frederick Dedese, the chapter of the Nomad 52.

$100 for the foundation, $100 for DAV.

Chairman **Cosgriff.** Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Williams.** Mr. Chairman, my name is Joe Williams, Midwest City Chapter No. 39, Oklahoma.

My members proudly present to you a check for the Service Foundation for $500.

Thank you, sir.

Chairman **Cosgriff.** That's $500 from Mid Dell Chapter No. 39, of Oklahoma. [Applause.]

Mr. **Tenen.** Mr. Chairman, Jack Tenen, Past Commander of Chapter 13, California.

I have two personal checks, one in memory of our daughter, Cherrie Gale Tenen, by Jack and Bernice Tenen, for $100.

And I also have a check for $100 to honor Commander Chad Colley. In 1983 Chad visited the Department of California convention. He made us laugh. In 1984 I was in Washington, DC. He made me cry. This Sunday again I was full of tears.

Chad, for your compassion for our fellow man and for your love for the family, I wish you God bless you, I wish you a good year and a good life.

Thank you.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you very much, Jack. [Applause.]

Mr. Tenen. Behind me I want to introduce my Senior Vice Commander, one of the youngest ones, World War I, Senior Vice Commander of Chapter 13. He has a check from Camp Kearney, Van Nuys, Chapter 13, for $300.

Chairman Cosgriff. Give your name.

Mr. Reed. Al Reed.

Chairman Cosgriff. This is Al Reed, with a check for $300 in the name of Camp Kearney Chapter 13, in California. [Applause.]

DAV Member. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Department of New Mexico and its membership, I present you this check in the amount of $1,500.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you. [Applause.]

DAV Member. Arthur H. Muchow, Chapter No. 1, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, representing 1,567 in a million, would like to present this check for $1,000.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you, sir. [Applause.]

Mr. Narducci. I'm Roland R. Narducci, of Peninsula Chapter 47 of the great state of California, in Palo Alto.

I wish to donate $100 in the memory of Phil Hoffa.

Thank you.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you. [Applause.]

DAV Member. Dick, here's $100 from Chapter 102, Pico Rivera, California.

From the floor. Speak louder.

Chairman Cosgriff. Speak into the mike.

DAV Member. Chapter 102, Pico Rivera, California. A check for $100.

Chairman Cosgriff. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. Marvin. Mr. Chairman, Ed Marvin, Commander, Chapter 22, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

I would like to present this Travelers Check to the National Service Foundation in memory of the departed comrades of Chapter 22.

Also on behalf of one of our members of Chapter 22, Ed Hoff, he would like to donate $20 for the same cause. Thank you sir. [Applause.]

Chairman Cosgriff. The total amount there, the first one is for $100 and the second for $20.

Ms. Pierce. I'm Reba Pierce, Junior Vice Commander from the Department of Wisconsin. I'd like to donate $100 in honor of my granddaughter, Dustine Lynn Wilm.

We have some fine NSOs in the Department of Wisconsin. We're proud of them and the work that they do. In honor of three that belong to Chapter 19, who are Donald Savage, Phil Kreisa and Clyde Darety, West Allis Chapter No. 19 would like to donate $100.

William Priorie, Jr., donates $100 in honor of his father, William Priorie, Sr., who is Commander of West Allis Chapter No. 19. Thank you. [Applause.]

DAV **Member**. Dick, on behalf of the delegates from Michigan that are in attendance here today and a couple of our friends sitting on the floor here, we collected $500 in the memory of John Soave, a Past National Commander who was a true friend of ours. [Applause.]

Also my personal check for $100 in the name of two of my very good friends, Jim Pellegrini and John Soave, who left us this year. [Applause.]

Mr. **Long**. Boy, they're looking good out there. [Laughter.]

I'm George Long, Commander of the Blind Veterans National Chapter No. 1, DAV.

I have a check here for $200 for the perpetual rehab fund in honor of June Venable Boland. Twenty-four years ago I appointed her husband Adjutant for the Blind Chapter and consequently we got her as our Secretary. She is leaving us this year and it is a tremendous loss. For 24 years of faithful impeccable service we would like to have June's name inscribed on the perpetual honor roll. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. **Palamino**. Good morning. I'm Ben Palamino, Department Commander from Colorado.

I believe that the normal procedure for escort services is that you get paid for it. Well, in this particular case I was honored to escort George up here and I'm paying. Thank you very much.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. $50. [Applause.]

Mr. **Chapman**. Good morning. I'm Lawrence H. Chapman, Felix L. Veau Chapter No. 10, as a personal contribution to Fund 3280 in memory of my brother, Lieutenant Victor Albert Chapman. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. $50. Thank you.

Mr. **Soles**. Ralph Soles, Chapter 15, Brookhaven, Mississippi.

On behalf of the attending members of Brookhaven Chapter 15, Mississippi, and Chapter 47, Picayune, Mississippi, we'd like to donate $50. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Osmon**. Commander, I'm Bob Osmon, Commander of Oliver Burley Chapter 17.

In honor of Elmer Walker, a past Chapter Commander, we would like to present $100.

And also I would like to present $100 from Past National Commander Stan Pealer in memory of Jim Pellegrini and P.D. Jackson.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, sir. $200. [Applause.]

Mr. **Friedlander**. Mr. Chairman, I'm Yael Friedlander from Chapter 14, Texas, San Antonio, Texas. Here's my personal check for $100. [Applause.]

Mr. **Dodd**. Good morning. Roy Dodd, Chapter 9.

In recognition of D.D. Adams, $250.

On a personal basis, from Roy Dodd, member of Chapter 1, St Louis, Missouri, and member of Chapter 9, Texas, it is with a great pleasure I present $100 in the name of Dale Adams, a giant of a man who makes Iacocca look like a midget. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Martin**. Rex Maritn, National Service Officer, San Diego, Past Commander Thomas F. Durbin, Chapter No. 70 in Escondido, for the seventh consecutive year my pleasure to present $150 to the Foundation. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you, Rex.

DAV **Member**. Chapter 32 of Bergenfield, New Jersey. We would like to give $100 in cash in memory of Barbara F. Bradley, who died August 13, 1978.

Mr. **Tillman**. Hi there. I'm Mr. James Edgar Tillman, from San Antonio, Texas. I'm the crazy guy that bugs you with the horn. I'm very sorry about that, but I can't find some of my buddies, but some of my buddies know my horn.

I would like to honor my buddy Stonewall Jackson that's passed away, that used to be from Dallas, Texas. Like the blind man says, I can count the bills, so there will be $11 in memory of Stonewall Jackson. He used to say on the other mike, when I said I was from San Antonio, he was from Dallas.

Now, for the other $4, you know I'm the baby of this outfit, I think I can proudly say. In 1921 my mother had me in San Antonio, Texas, in the house that my father built. It's still there. And also in memory of my mother, she passed away, that's one dollar, two dollars, three dollars, four dollars—wait a minute. Was that $11? [Laughter.] All right, that's the fourth because this is the fourth convention. I'm sorry I lost my other $60. I spent too much around here. [Laughter.]

Anyway, if I can find it, I'll donate the other $60. And remember the Brother Rats—what's that great group we represent? And I'm Golden Rat this year from Florida. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you. $15. He's keeping you honest. He counts them out one at a time.

Mr. **Marshall**. Dwight Marshall, delegate from Richard J. Curry Chapter 5 in Wilmington, Delaware.

This has become a tradition. We'd like to donate $100 to the National Service Foundation in the name of the outgoing Department Commander, William Slacum.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much, sir. [Applause.]

Mr. **Thomas**. Hubert Thomas, Chapter 5, Commander, of Gulfport, Mississippi.

I'd like to donate $100 in memory of our Chapter and $100 from my wife Lucille and I. [Applause.]

Chairman **Cosgriff**. Thank you very much. $200 total.

He brings his money in a big envelope.

Mr. **Zamacona**. Lino Zamacona from Chapter 144, California. I pledge $100 for Harry Wentworth.

And the second pledge is for Bob Machado, from Chapter 101, California, Salinas.

Chairman **Cosgriff**. We're going to charge a little interest for these IOUs because we have to spend for stamps. We'll see that we get it.

DAV **Member**. Hello, Dick. I've got a pledge here. I'll exchange this for the check that I've got in the room for $200. It's in memory of Roland Kern, a Past Chapter Commander, and Ruth Ost, Past Chapter Commander. Roland Kern was the oldest living Past Department Commander of the State of California. This $200 will come from the Dugout 159, National Order of Trench Rats, Bakersfield, California. [Applause.]

Mr. RANDAZZO. Good morning, Dick. Frank Randazzo, Past National Commander.

Today is my 41st wedding anniversary, so I would like to toast $100 to the Foundation, and I suspect that tonight my wife and I will both have a headache. [Laughter.] Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. FLINT. This is $100 for my wife, Past Department Auxiliary Commander, passed away, my wife and daughter, in the home, an adopted son, Albert Linden. $100.

Chairman COSGRIFF. Thank you very much, sir. [Applause.] This is $100 from Lester Flint of Maryland.

Mr. HYLE. I'm Walter Hyle, Adjutant of Maryland, and I have two checks to present.

One is a personal check for $200 in memory of P. D. Jackson.

And for Dan Wiggins and the members of the C&A I have the privilege of presenting a check for $1,000 from C&A in memory of P. D. Jackson. [Applause.]

Mr. SARRAZIN. In last year's minutes you had me from Chapter 5, San Diego, California. That's the way it came out in the minutes, Chapter 5. San Diego. Dick Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. [Laughter.]

This is $1,000 in memory of Daniel W. Lee, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, a prior member of our chapter. [Applause.]

Chairman COSGRIFF. At least we got the first names correct, Dick.

Mr. SARRAZIN. Yes, All right.

Chairman COSGRIFF. That completes the contributions at this time, and I want to say, I think Father Devine did a great job on getting his ushers together to get you all up here. Thank you, Father.

We will give a report to you in a minute on how much we did collect here, but we're certainly proud of what the Department of Maryland has done in seeing that every chapter has been listed. They are the second Department in the country that have done this. Montana was first and now Maryland is second.

There is certainly another group that we want to give an awful lot of thanks to you and we owe a lot of our success to is the National Service Officers Corps. And thank you very much.

The amount of money collected at this point—last year at this point at the convention, and of course we collected additional funds later, but at this point in the convention last year it was $39,166. This year at this point, just finished just now, $58,648. [Applause.] Plus $2,400 in pledges, and we'll see that the pledges are collected before we leave the convention. [Laughter.]

Thank you very much.

[The above-mentioned report entitled "Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation" follows:]

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION—FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS' OPINION FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984 AND 1983

AUDITORS' OPINION

ST. LOUIS, MO, *June 24, 1985.*

Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation.

We have examined the balance sheets of the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation as of December 31, 1984 and 1983 and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses and changes in fund balances and statement of changes in financial position for the years then ended. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Foundation at December 31, 1984 and 1983 and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Our examination was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of Functional Expenses for the years ending December 31, 1984 and 1983 (page 8) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examination of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Deloitte, Haskins & Sells.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION—BALANCE SHEETS, DEC. 31, 1984 AND 1983

	1984	1983
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	$9,157	$9,561
Land payment receivable (note 3)	57,168	
Investment income receivable	72,304	27,941
Prepaid expenses	552	202
Total current assets	139,181	37,704
INVESTMENTS		
Marketable securities held for long-term investment purposes—at cost (note 4)	2,402,318	2,026,676
Land	2,200	202,200
Total	2,404,518	2,228,876
Note receivable (note 3)	130,000	
Office equipment—net of accumulated depreciation of $934 in 1984 and $727 in 1983 (note 2)	1,141	1,348
Total assets	2,674,840	2,267,928
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Current liabilities:		
Accrued liabilities	822	4,171
Due to D.A.V., Inc.	13,995	1,657
Total current liabilities	14,817	5,828
Fund balances:		
Restricted special fund balances (note 2):		
Perpetual rehab and permanent reserve fund	1,950,060	1,736,753
National Order of Trench Rats, D.A.V. legislative program:		
Principal	118,428	113,428
Income		22,109
Total restricted fund balances	2,068,488	1,872,290
Unrestricted general fund balance	591,535	389,810
Total fund balances	2,660,023	2,262,100
Total	2,674,840	2,267,928

See notes to financial statements

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION—STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 1984 AND 1983

	Unrestricted fund—general	Restricted funds			Total all funds—	
		Perpetual rehab	National Order of Trench Rats		1984	1983
			Principal	Income		
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES						
Public support: Contributions		$213,307	$5,000		$218,307	$242,602
Revenues:						
Interest income	$232,468			$12,338	244,806	187,019
Dividend income						122
Net realized gain (loss) on investment transactions	175				175	(22)
Rental income	13,000				13,000	12,500
Total revenues	245,643			12,338	257,981	199,619
Total public support and revenues	245,643	213,307	5,000	12,338	476,288	442,221
EXPENSES						
Supporting services:						
Management and general	29,564				29,564	32,712
Fund raising	2,105				2,105	2,826
Transfers to D.A.V. National Headquarters				34,447	34,447	
Land selling expenses	12,249				12,249	
Total expenses	43,918			34,447	78,365	35,538
Excess of public support and revenues over expenses	201,725	213,307	5,000	(22,109)	397,923	406,683
Fund balances, beginning of year	389,810	1,736,753	113,428	22,109	2,262,100	1,855,417
Fund balances, end of year	591,535	1,950,060	118,428	0	2,660,023	2,262,100

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION—STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDING DEC. 31, 1984 AND 1983

	1984	1983
Sources of cash:		
Excess of public support and revenues over expenses	$397,923	$406,683
Proceeds on disposition of investments	2,697,421	1,537,722
Net realized loss (gain) on securities transactions	(175)	22
Depreciation	208	208
Amortization of bond discount	(7,486)	(5,848)
Sale of land	200,000	
Increase in due to D.A.V. Inc.	12,338	
Decrease in accrued interest and prepaid expenses		12,009
Total	3,300,229	1,950,796
Uses of cash		
Purchases of securities	3,065,403	1,949,882
Increase in land payment receivable	57,168	
Increase in notes receivable	130,000	
Increase in accrued interest and prepaid expenses	44,713	
Decrease in accrued liabilities	3,349	2,039
Decrease in due D.A.V. Inc.		10,719
Total	3,300,633	1,962,640
Decrease in cash	404	11,844

Uses of cash		
Beginning cash balance	9,561	21,405
Ending cash balance	9,157	9,561

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DEC. 31, 1984, AND 1983

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation (Foundation) is the incorporated trustee for the Disabled American Veterans, Inc. as set forth in paragraph 3 of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Foundation which is as follows:

"The particular business and objects of this organization are to act as trustee for the Congressionally recognized organization, composed of wounded, gassed, injured, and disabled ex-servicemen, known as the Disabled American Veterans, Inc. for all such monies, funds and property as may be derived or acquired by it or by this corporation on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans as proceeds from any and all bequests, donations, subscriptions or contributions, and to supervise the custody and the investment or reinvestment of such funds and supervise control and direct the expenditures by the Disabled American Veterans of the principal and income derived from such funds, to the end that such principal and income shall be expended for and by the Disabled American Veterans."

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Foundation uses the accrual basis of accounting.

Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation. All contributions are considereed permanently restricted in the Perpetual Rehab fund or the National Order of Trench Rats D.A.V. Legislative Program fund. Revenues of the Perpetual Rehab fund are considered available for use by the Foundation for its operations. Revenues of the National Order of Trench Rats D.A.V. Legislative Program fund are considered restricted for use by the Disabled American Veterans' Legislative Program.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the assets.

3. NOTE RECEIVABLE

On December 3, 1984, the Foundation sold land for its carrying value of $200,000. After commissions and other related expenses, the sale resulted in a net loss of $12,249. Proceeds of the sale were in the form of a 10 percent mortgage note receivable for $130,000 due in annual installments of $14,322 commencing December 3, 1985 (concluding on December 3, 2009) and a current receivable in the amount of $57,168. The current receivable was cleared by a cash payment in February 1985.

4. MARKETABLE SECURITIES

Marketable securities consist of the following at December 31, 1984 and 1983:

	1984		1983	
	Cost	Market value	Cost	Market value
Cash equivalents	$113,564	$113,564	$1,461,082	$1,461,082
Corporate bonds	396,090	402,621	415,591	419,115
Federal bonds	1,892,664	1,932,717	150,003	144,485
Total	2,402,318	2,448,902	2,026,676	2,024,682

Aggregate unrealized gains and losses related to marketable securities at December 31, 1984 and 1983 are as follows:

	1984	1983
Gains	$57,546	$20,239
Losses	(10,962)	(22,233)
Net unrealized gain (loss)	46,584	(1,994)

5. CONTINGENCY

In 1982, the Foundation received a subordinated interest bearing promissory note for $50,000 as a donation from an unrelated donor. However, there is substantial doubt as to the ultimate collectibility of this note. The Foundation received three quarterly interest payments in 1983 aggregating approximately $5,500 but the interest payments are now in arrears as the Foundation has not received a payment for interest since August 1983. Based on the fact that the maker of the note is in bankruptcy proceedings and is in default of a loan to which the note is specifically subordinated, the Foundation has not recorded the note as a donation or as an asset and will recognize the gift as income at such time that cash is received.

DISABLED AMERICANS VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION—FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DEC. 31, 1984 and 1983

	Supporting services		Total—	
	Fund raising	Management and general	1984	1983
Travel and related expenses	$2,105	$10,699	$12,804	$13,569
Insurance		355	355	233
Depreciation		208	208	208
Professional services		11,466	11,466	11,789
Printing, postage and supplies		3,121	3,121	748
Secretarial services		1,300	1,300	1,300
Taxes and registration fees		(13)	(13)	1,402
Investment trustee fees		2,363	2,363	6,223
Miscellaneous		65	65	66
Total	2,105	29,564	31,669	35,538

Commander Colley. I would now like to recognize the President of the Board of the DAV Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I understand there are some contributions that are to be made to the memorial.

PNC Joyner [President, Board of DAV, Vietnam Veterans Memorial]. Thank, Commander Colley.

It's my pleasure this past year, I was elected in May as the president of the Board of Directors of the DAV Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and to give you a very small report, because I don't have anything prepared as far as a written report, but I can tell you that the new visitors center at the memorial at this point in time is approximately 95 percent completed.

We had hoped this past year to be able to dedicate the visitors center on Memorial Day, but with it having to face Mother Nature in the valley out there in New Mexico and having delays, it wouldn't have been completed quite enough, we would have had to rush through it, and we just didn't feel that you would see the true final product of how good and great that this visitors center is going to look. So we felt that in the best interests of the membership that would be able to attend the dedication of the visitors center that we are going to hold the dedication of it next Memorial Day. We're hoping that we'll be able to see many of you at that dedication.

I have been approached by a few individuals here at the convention, a few groups, and I have been asked if we would be willing to accept any donations for the memorial. Well, that was a very easy answer. We are going to do that, but I do want to tell you that last year here at the convention there was $9,025 that was donated to the DAV Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and we thank you for this support in the past.

At this time if there is anyone that would want to make a donation to the memorial, we would be more than willing to accept it.

Mr. FORREST. Past Department Commander Joyner, I'm J.D. Forrest, Commander of the Department of Texas.

On behalf of the 62,000-plus members of the Department of Texas, we would like to present you this check for $1,000. [Applause.]

PNC JOYNER. Thank you very much.

We have another $100 donation from our National Adjutant Denvel Adams. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

We have a $100 donation from our First Junior Vice Commander, Ken Musselman. Ken, thank you very much. [Applause.]

DAV MEMBER. We just witnessed a long line here a while ago and it's pretty lean up here now. Folks, this is ours too.

On behalf of the Department of Colorado I would like to donate $5,000. [Applause.]

PNC JOYNER. Thank you very much. And make sure you carry the thanks back to the membership in Colorado. We appreciate it.

DAV MEMBER. Arthur H. Muchow, Chapter 1 in Sioux Falls, the home chapter of Gene Murphy.

We'd like to present this check for $1,000. [Applause.]

PNC JOYNER. Thank you very kindly for that donation.

Mr. PEPPARD. George Peppard, from that great chapter of Kansas, Chapter No. 1.

I would like to donate $10 for a very dear friend of mine that was killed in action by the name of Tom Barrier.

PNC JOYNER. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. MARVIN. Ed Marvin, Commander, Chapter 22, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

I would like to donate this Travelers Check for $50 on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of our chapter. [Applause.]

PNC JOYNER. Thank you very much. I want to thank everyone that has donated—oh, we have one more.

Mr. TILLMAN. I'm that blind guy again coming back up here. And this way I'm saying the Vietnam buddy, you remember Joe Claggio out of that same conflict.

If I may, if someone will read what he said about me, and I will donate—on page 63—I will donate $3 for the page that he put me on. Read it for me, please [Applause.]

PNC JOYNER. Okay. Let me read this. It's a poem and it's titled "Mr. Tillman.".

James Edgar Tillman is his name,
Special Deputy Chief of Staff Disabled American Veteran.
Sometimes he sees and sometimes he doesn't

As he struts along with his cornelian cust, talcum guided cane,
Honking his horn when there's work to be done.
When he cannot see where the laborers hide
Bearing coffee, water for the representatives of the unrepresented.
Servant of all men, he cries when the cabinet meets for the souls of the rough riders
He asks forgiveness for his neighbor's sins before his neighbor has sinned them,
When satan comes to accuse him of his foolish ways he praises God and all men here.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. Tillman. In memory of my Joe Claggio buddy, which was my right-hand man, we worked together as brothers. I'm very proud to be associated with that family, but very sorry what happened involving the family over standing up for him.

It's like I've always said in my Chapter 8, I used to pray to hope that all of our comradeship would unite together as brotherhood and quit fighting amongst ourselves. [Applause.]

PNC Joyner. Thank you, Mr. Tillman. Thank you very much.

DAV Member. I'm a Vietnam veteran, representing Michigan. The Department of Michigan donates $50. [Applause.]

PNC Joyner. Thank you very much.

Mr. Narducci. I'm Roland Narducci, Adjutant Treasurer, Peninsula Chapter 47 of California.

I'm donating $20 in memory—well, I won't say memory, but for our great Commander Glenn Halsey.

PNC Joyner. Thank you very much. We appreciate that. [Applause.]

Mr. Slacum. Bill Slacum, NEC District 4.

I'd like to present this check in honor of Captain Larry Pott, United States Marine Corps, who is still missing in action in Vietnam. [Applause.]

PNC Joyner. Thank you very much. A check for $25. Thank you very much, Bill.

And I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the DAV Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. Fisher. I'm Bill Fisher, from Chapter 115, Northern Hills Chapter No. 115, Ohio.

This is for Rick Schultz, our Service Officer from Vietnam. May God bless him.

PNC Joyner. Thank you very much. We appreciate that donation. [Applause.]

Mr. Aguilar. I'm Marshall W. Aguilar, from the DAV National Blind Chapter No. 1, and I have $25, Past Commander Joyner, for P.D. Jackson to the memorial.

PNC Joyner. Thak you very much. [Applause.]

Again I will give you the total we've received here, and I just want to again thank you. We've received $7,403.

I want to thank all of those that have donated here today and those that have donated and supported this great memorial in the past. Thank you. [Applause.]

DAV Member. Past Commander Dennis, I'm giving a Travelers Check for $50 in memory of all Past National Commander of Auxiliary in the State of Missouri, that's Kansas City, Missouri. There's five women of our Past National Service Women's Auxiliary. I'm giving a check for $50 to the Vietnam Memorial. [Applause.]

PNC **Joyner**. Thank you very much.

Ms. **Johnson**. Faye Johnson, Department Commander for the State of Nevada.

We would like to contribute to the memorial. [Applause.]

PNC **Joyner**. Thank you so very much. Tell everyone in Nevada we deeply appreciate it.

DAV **Member**. From Four Chaplains, Chapter 108, in continuing memory of Jack Schwartz, $100. [Applause.]

PNC **Joyner**. Thank you very much.

Again, thank each and every one of you. Thank you, Commander Colley.

Commander **Colley**. I'd like a moment of personal privilege. If there is another gentleman in this room who has also served our organization over this length of time, I would be happy to recognize him at the next business session, but I'd like Cliff Ishmael, from Chapter No. 2 in Kansas City, Missiouri, to stand up. [Applause.]

This gentleman his been a member of our organization 64 years. I think that's commendable. [Applause.]

I'd like to now call on the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for his final report.

Let's hold that in abeyance.

Now we're going to, and if you will with me, please welcome Imperial Golden Rodent John J. DiLaurenzio and the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats. [Applause.]

And now, ladies and gentlemen, delegates, guests, I introduce to you John J. DiLaurenzio, the Imperial Golden Rodent. [Applause.]

John DiLaurenzio [Imperial Golden Rodent, National Order of Trench Rats]. Thank you, Chad.

National Commander Chad Colley, national officers and special guests at the podium, members of the Disabled American Veterans and the National Order of Trench Rats.

I would like to report to the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans assembled in New Orleans that as the head of your National Order of Trench Rats we had a successful year. All of our Dugouts submitted to us an annual report of their activities. Having reviewed these activities, I was very pleased to find out that the members of National Order of Trench Rats have been active in recruiting new members for the parent organization.

Therefore, as the very active members of the Disabled American Veterans that we all are, we share in the great price that all active DAVers must feel in having attained our goal of over one million members. The National Order of Trench Rats has for over 60 years been the source of every active support for the programs of the Disabled American Veterans and I am here to assure you, Chad, and all the members of the Disabled American Veterans that when it comes to supporting and serving our organization and the contributions that the National Order of Trench Rats makes to the Disabled American Veterans—you ain't seen nothing yet! [Applause.]

And now I would like to introduce the Imperial Rodent Joe Gibbs, who is standing in for Imperial Red-eyed Gnawer, Dr. Henry E. Swann. Dr. Swann has been hospitalized here in New Orleans and Imperial Rodent Gibbs will introduce the rest of the Imperial Van.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Joe Gibbs [Imperial Rodent, National Order of Trench Rats]. National Commander Chad Colley, national officers, members of the Disabled American Veterans and the Auxiliary.

It is a pleasure to appear before you today to make this introduction. I would rather not be here, but under the circumstances he can't. I would like to report that he is feeling better this morning. Hopefully he will be out of the hospital in ten days or two weeks.

Before I start the introductions, I have two presentations I would like to make. I know Denvel Adams has a trunkful of bolo ties, but we would still like to give him another one.

Denvel, are you on the stage?

Adjutant Adams. Yes, sir.

Imperial Rodent Gibbs. You can add this to your collection, Denvel. I know you have a trunkful, but we would like for you to have another one.

Adjutant Adams. Thank you. [Applause.]

Imperial Rodent Gibbs. Now, if Commander Chad Colley would come up here, I have a presentation to make to him.

Chad, I didn't know what size shirt you wore, but I brought the only one that I knew you could get into. If it's too big or anything, let me know and I guarantee you will have another one. But I want to present to Commander Colley the Dirty Rat T-Shirt. Hey, how about that? [Laughter and applause.]

Commander Colley. Thank you.

Imperial Rodent Gibbs. I want to make one introduction of a person that I understand is in our audience today. This was handed to me about two minutes before I came in here. As you know, Volney T. Mooney was the founder of the National Order of Trench Rate. His wife was three years the National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

She herself served in the armed services in World War I. I understand she's in the audience. Mrs. Frieda Mooney, would you please stand up and let us recognize you, if you are here. Maybe she left. She did come in. We would be honored to have her with us.

I would like to tell Chad Colley that we wound up our year with 6,886 Trench Rats and we signed up 9,602 members into the DAV. That's almost one and a half members per rat. Next year we are going to try to do better. How about that? [Applause.]

A very brief rundown on our rendezvous and then we will get into the introductions.

[Announcements about the schedule of the scheduled dinner and entertainment.]

That's our report on the rendezvous. We have been assured of a good show and we are looking forward to it. Hope to see you all out there.

Now let's get into the introductions. You've already met the Imperial Golden Rodent. I'd like you to meet the Imperial Silver Rodent, Jim Morgan, from Nebraska. Jim. [Applause.]

Max Huntington is in intensive care in the hospital and he's unable to be with us, our imperial Blue Rodent. Our best wishes go to Max, because he's done a lot of work.

Our Imperial Bubonic Plague, Pete Salerno, from Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

Now, when we pick a Black Plague we go all out. (Laughter.) Werren B. Lone, from Washington, D.C. Give him a big hand, you guys. [Cheers and applause.]

Our Imperial Hole-y Rat, Ken Nowry, from Michigan. [Applause.]

Our Imperial Iron Claw, Vince Reed, from Massachusetts. [Applause.]

Our Imperial Historic Rat, Vince Cassidy, from Colorado. [Applause.]

We have two Imperial Rendezvous Rats, Simon Bordelon and Joe Abinanti. Are they here with us today? [Applause.]

Our Imperial Bench Rat, Walter T. Greaney, from Massachusetts. [Applause.]

And you know Doc Swann, the Imperial Redeyed Gnawer, is in the hospital.

Our District Rats. From the 1st District is Richard Stentiford. [Applause.]

From the 3rd District is Joe Letourneau. [Applause.]

From the 4th District, Jerry Loncosky. [Applause.]

From the 6th District, Russell R. Henderson. [Applause.]

From the 7th District, Ernie Balcom [Applause.]

From the 12th District, Bob Elliott, from Chicago, Illinois. [Applause.]

From the 13th District, John Houston, from Indiana. [Applause.]

The 14th District, Donald Carlson, from South Dakota. [Applause.]

The 15th District, Oz Pederson, from Missouri. [Applause.]

From the 16th District, Dr. Thomas Luparello, California. [Applause.]

The 17th District, Demecio P. Gutierrez, from New Mexico. [Applause.]

The 18th District, Henry Juncker, from Arizona. [Applause.]

The 19th is Robert Rothman, from Oregon. [Applause.]

The 20th District is Frank R. Webb, from Texas. [Applause.]

Now we'll get back into the has-beens. [Laughter.]

Our 59th Imperial Rodent, Douglas McGarrity. [Applause.]

Our 58th Imperial Rodent, Lee Henderson, from Florida. [Applause.]

Doug Jones, our 57th Imperial Rodent, is sick and is unable to be here.

Our 56th Imperial Rodent, Jack Follis, from Chicago, Illinois. [Applause.]

Our 55th Imperial Rodent, Fred Graf, from California. [Applause.]

I'm sorry, I missed one Executive Rat. I didn't have him marked present. Atha M. Foster, from Mississippi. [Applause.] Atha, I'm sorry.

Our 53rd Imperial Rodent is Lester Karr, from Michigan. [Applause.]

Our 49th Imperial Rodent, Alfred Grajek, from Chicago, Illinois, [Applause.]

Our 48th, Earl Sloniker, from Palm Desert, California. [Applause.]

Harley Livingston, Kansas City, Missouri. [Applause.]

Jim Cain is here and I don't know his—I know he's at the convention, but I don't see him anywhere. Jim came from New York, our 43rd Imperial Rodent. [Applause.]

Bill Villont is sick and unable to be here.

Sam M. Vigil, our 39th Imperial Rodent, from Colorado. [Applause.]

Charles B. Merrifield, the 37th Imperial Rodent, from Louisville, Kentucky. [Applause.]

Now we get down to the two ranking Rodents here. Oz Crummack is rubbing 90 years old, but let me tell you that Oz and three other men live in a condominium with 96 women, so you may think he's old, but he's not. [Laughter and applause.] Oz Crummack, from Seattle, Washington, our 34th Golden Rodent. Oz. [Applause.]

Now we have the old Deputy Sheriff from Indiana, the ranking Golden Rodent, the only guy that nobody in the Trench Rats can find because he's the oldest Imperial Rodent, Ed James, from Indiana. [Applause.]

That concludes the introductions. I did not call any of the Van that was not present. I didn't want to take that time for you.

I would like to do one more thing. I'd like to tell you—I hate to tell you this, but we lost two good men in the past year. Earl Merifield, 50 years the Imperial Red-eyed Gnawer, died shortly after the convention in Washington, D.C.

And Bill Surgi, another good Trench Rat and a long-time member of the National Service Foundation, died a couple of months ago.

We will be before you again on Thursday to make a presentation in their honor to the National Service Foundation.

I wonder if you would join me in just a moment of silence in honor of Earl Merifield and Bill Surgi.

[A moment of silence was observed.]

Thank you very much. That concludes the introductions. I want to thank the National Commander and National Adjutant and all National Officers for allowing us to appear before you.

We'll see you on Thursday. Be at our rendezvous. May the good Lord bless all of you.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander Colley. Now I call on the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Mr. Joe Harold, Chapter No. 10, of Boston.

Mr. Young. Comrade Commander, Mike One.

Commander Colley. Mike One.

Mr. Young. Comrade Commander, G. W. Bill Young, Chapter 1, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

I would like a point of personal privilege.

As a proponent for Resolution No. 196, I call upon the Chairman to read same so that it may be considered by this entire body according to Article III, Section 3.10, Rules of Convention, Rule No. 9(a).

I was not properly recognized before the close of business on Monday, July 22, 1985, encompassing Rule 9(b), also to be in accordance with Section 3.10, Rule 21(e).

Thank you.

Commander **Colley**. The rule that you cited is the one that I used for my ruling. I was not aware that you sought recognition. Being in the hall is not sufficient to seek recognition.

If it is the will of this body that this resolution be read, then it will be done, I will allow it to be done.

Joseph R. Harold [Chairman, Constitution and Bylaws Committee]. Mr. Commander, I was going to bring it up, if there was no objection, so we can concur with his request that we read the resolution at the end of the report.

Commander **Colley**. State that again, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman **Harold**. I spoke to the gentleman yesterday and I explained the circumstances to him, but, you know, as you get older you get a little bit more lenient. So I discussed it with the National Officers and we are going to ask the body, if there is no objection, that we allow this to be read. It's out of the ordinary, but I'm going to read it anyway, at the end of the report.

Mr. Commander, Dale Adams, delegates to this convention.

Before I began my report, I think there are some people I should thank for the help they gave us on getting these resolutions together.

And I hope you can hear me out there. If you can't, just let me know, because yesterday some of the people said they didn't hear me in the back of the hall, and I want you to be able to get the answers to these questions you may have in your mind today, not tomorrow like that gentleman who missed the report yesterday.

First I would like to thank the National Commander for his help with this report and also Dale Adams, who was with us at one of the meetings, and Butch Joeckel, to be Executive Director of the Washington headquarters. I want to thank those two.

George Carey, who we called the nitpicker, because he was nitpicking most of the time, but for a good cause. And John McCarty and Stan Pealer, who were members of the committee. And also Fred Bristol, former Assistant National Adjutant, who was a counsel and did tremendous work for us.

Last, but not least, Tom Dehne. Tom Dehne and I always disagree, but in the end we agree on all disagreeable things. And I want to apologize to you, Tom, if I was out of line at any time.

I will read the resolution and then I will move the adoption of this resolution, and I have Dick Sarrazin on one mike and Jim Friesema on the other mike. If you will recognize them, Commander, they will second the motion, just to expedite getting the resolution before the body. After that, if there is going to be any explanation, I will be happy to give it or if there is going to be any rebuttals or debates, I will be happy to answer any questions you have. If I can't answer it, I'm sure we have enough talent on the stage who can do that who are members of the committee.

Before I start, I want to remind you all that this was a unanimous vote of the Bylaws Committee. They all agreed on each one of these resolutions. We debated a few of them, questions were asked, but it came out unanimous.

For that reason, I think we should recognize the people who were on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, because under the rules I think now we just post their names and no recognition is given to them, but this was such a big job they should be recognized.

District No. 1—and if they will stand until they are all there and then we will give them a thank you.

Joseph R. Harold, from District 1. John Cotton, the alternate. Did John stand up?

Albert Vessiney, from New York. His alternate was Clarence Miller.

Dennis Joyner was on and Karl Berger, from District 3. They are from Pennsylvania.

District 4 was Robert Mussari and John DiLaurenzio. He may not be here right now.

District 5 was John McCarthy and Bill Head.

District 6 was William McCartin and the alternate was Jesse Brown.

District 7 was Verne Nygaard and Jack Feighner, who we all know was the former Assistant Director of Services.

You can see we had some talent behind the reports of this committee.

Billy Black, from Alabama, District 8, and James Owens.

Of course we had Stan Pealer, from Missouri, and Gabe Russo, his alternate.

District 10 was Edward Mecher and, of course, the alternate was Fred Bristol.

District 11 was William Jenkins and Donald J. Reaveley, from Utah.

District 12 was Richard Marbes, from Wisconsin, and Marvin Roslansky, from Wisconsin.

District 13 was Virgil Barnett, from Idaho, and Mike Painter, from Idaho.

District 14 was Rich Brown, Montana, and Charles E. Deeds, from Minnesota.

District 16 was Ken Musselmann, from California, and Nash Ramirez, from California.

District 18 was Vince Cui, No. 8, Hawaii, and Ben Sanders, from Arizona.

And the Secretary of this committee was Richard Sarrazin, from Texas, and Sandy Phelps from Texas.

And the Blind Veterans was Monroe Hutton, Jr.

I want to thank them for the support they gave me yesterday. Thank you. [Applause.]

The first one is Resolution No. 002.

Resolution No. 002: To amend Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 8. by striking out the word "business" wherever it appears.

I'll move the adoption and it will be seconded, and then if you have a question I will be happy to answer it.

At this time I move the adoption of Resolution No. 002.

Commander COLLEY. Mike one.

Mr. FRIESEMA. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, suports the motion.

Commander COLLEY. Is there a question on the motion?

All in favor of the motion to adopt Resolution No. 002 signify by saying Aye. Opposed same sign. Motion carriers.

Chairman Harold. Resolution No. 003. Actually all this does is add the word "alternate" to Rule 8 and 8(a).

Resolution No. 003: Be it Resolved that Article III, Section 3.10 be amended as follows: And this is on page 9.

"Rule 8: Composition of Committee Meetings—Each Convention Committee shall be composed of one member or alternate from each of the National Districts, and one member or alternate from the Blind Veterans National Chapter. * * *"

"Rule 8(a). * * * At such meeting the delegates in each District shall by a majority vote of those present and voting elect one member and one alternate. * * *"

And I move the adoption of Resolution No. 003.

Commander Colley. Mike Three.

Mr. Sarrazin. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second.

Commander Colley. Question on the motion?

On the motion to accept Resolution No. 003, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman Harold. Actually all we are doing on this one is striking out "first business day" and inserting "opening session."

Resolution No. 004: Be it Resolved that Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 8(a) be amended as follows:

"Rule 8(a). Each National Executive Committeeman shall on the day prior to the opening session of the convention. * * *"

I now move the adoption of Resolution No. 004.

Commander Colley. Mike One.

Mr. Friesema. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, supports the motion.

Commander Colley. Question on the motion?

Motion to accept Resolution No. 004. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman Harold. Resolution No. 005. All we did was add the words "town or borough" both in paragraph 1 and 2. And yesterday when I read the resolution that's all I did, I said to amend paragraph 1—

Resolution No. 005: To amend Article VI, Section 6.2, paragraphs 1 and 2, be amended as follows:

"Paragraph 1: To add "town or borough" after the word "city" and in paragraph 2 to add the words "town or borough" after the word "city".

I now move the adoption of Resolution No. 005.

Commander Colley. Mike Three.

Mr. Sarrazin. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commander Colley. Question on the motion?

On the motion to approve Resolution No. 005, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman Harold. On this resolution, actually it takes about a year before a charter can be suspended or anything like this, this is going to cut the days down and still give the Chapter an opportunity for appeal.

Resolution No. 006: Be it Resolved that Article VI, Section 6.5, Paragraph 1(b) be amended by striking out the entire paragraph and substituting the following:

"Paragraph 1: (b) If the National Commander has reason to believe that a Chapter, Department, or other subordinate unit has violated the Constitution and Bylaws he may suspend its charter for a period of not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days, pending completion of his investigation. He may, additionally, place the Chapter, Department, or other subordinate unit under trusteeship during this period. In his discretion he may recommend revocation of its charter, in which event the unit may appear before the NEC to show cause why its charter should not be revoked."

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 006.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. FRIESEMA. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, seconds the motion.

Commander COLLEY. Question on the motion?

All in favor of the motion to adopt Resolution No. 006 signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman HAROLD. Resolution No. 007. The purpose of this resolution is that right now we have a National Director of Service and a National Service Director. It's conflicting in the titles and their messages and things like that, so we are just striking out "National Director of Service" and adding "Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters."

Resolution No. 007: Be it Resolved that Article VII, Section 7.2, Paragraph 1 be amended as follows:

"Paragraph 1: The National Commander, by and with the consent of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint a National Adjutant and an Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters."

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 007.

Commander COLLEY. Mike Three.

Mr. SARRAZIN. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commander COLLEY. Question on the motion?

All in favor of the motion to approve Resolution No. 007 signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman HAROLD. This next Resolution No. 008, I think we should also take up Resolution No. 011 at the same time, because if one passed and the other one failed it wouldn't be proper. I would think that we would be stuck with something.

Anyway, what we are doing here is we are going to have a new title and we will put it in on Paragraph 2 of Section 7.2 and then, of course, the present Paragraph 2 becomes 3 and Paragraph 3 becomes 4.

Resolution No. 008: Be it Resolved that Article VII, Section 7.2 be amended to substitute a new Paragraph 2 (and the remaining paragraphs be renumbered accordingly as follows:

"Paragraph 2: The National Commander shall appoint an Inspector General whose duties are defined in Section 7.8."

Now, under Resolution No. 011, if you will just flip the page, you'll see:

Resolution No. 011: To amend Article VII.

Be it Resolved that Article VII be amended to substitute a new Section 7.8 (and the remaining sections be renumbered accordingly) as follows:

So that means that Article VII, Section 7.7 becomes the Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters, Section 7.8 becomes Inspector General, Section 7.9 reads the National Service Officer, 7.10 will be tenure of office, 7.11 will be tenure of appointed offices, 7.12 will be interim committee. And this is the new 7.8: Inspector General. And it outlines his duties:

"Paragraph 1: The Inspector General shall, under the supervision of the National Commander and the National Adjutant, investigate any alleged violation of the National Constitution and Bylaws, including but not limited to occurrences in any department, chapter, subordinate or auxiliary unit which may impugn the integrity or reputation of the organization. He shall report his recommendations to the National Commander and the National Adjutant. He shall further be subject to implementing regulatons of the National Finance Committee."

At this time I move the adoption of Resolutions No. 008 and No. 011.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. FRIESEMA. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, seconds the motion.

Commander COLLEY. Question?

On the motion to approve Resolution No. 008 and Resolution No. 011, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carriers.

Chairman HAROLD. Resolution No. 009. What we are doing here, we're just striking out "an Assistant National Adjutant for Charitable Contributions and such other", those words out of the Bylaws, and adding "one or more" Assistant National Adjutants.

Resolution No. 009: Be it Resolved that Article VII, Section 7.4, Paragraph 3 be amended to delete "an Assistant National Adjutant for Charitable Contributions and such other", and to add "one or more", so that the first sentence of the paragraph is as follows:

"The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander and the National Executive Committee, shall appoint one or more Assistant National Adjutants as may be deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of his office."

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 009.

Commander COLLEY. Mike Three.

Mr. SARRAZIN. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commander COLLEY. Question on the motion?

We have a motion to adopt Resolution No. 009. All in favor of the motion signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman HAROLD. Resolution No. 010: Be it Resolved that—

Can you hear me back there? I'll try to speak louder, then.

Resolution No. 010: Be it Resolved that Article VII, Section 7.7 and Section 7.8 be amended to delete the words "National Director of Services" and substitute the words "Exective Director of the Washington Headquarters" wherever they may appear.

And they appear, in 7.7, the title, in Paragraph 1, they appear, and also Paragraph 2, and also in 7.8.

So I move the adoption of Resolution No. 010.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. FRIESEMA. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, seconds the motion.

Commander COLLEY. Question on the motion? The motion is to adopt Resolution No. 010.

All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed same sign. Motion carries.

Chairman Harold. Resolution No. 012: Be it Resolved that Article VIII, Section 8.3, be amended by striking out the entire section and substituting the following:

What happened, when we looked at the Bylaws we found out that the bylaws for State Departments didn't require that they elect anybody but a Commander and Senior Vice Commander and "all other officers" and we felt that we should put a little bit more into to it. So we put:

Resolution No. 12: "The State Department shall elect a Commander, a Senior Vice Commander, one or more Junior Vice Commanders, and the shall elect or appoint an Adjutant, a Treasurer, and a Department Inspector. It may elect or appoint or such other officers as may be provided by its constitution and bylaws."

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 012.

Commander Colley. Mike Three.

Mr. Sarrazin. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commander Colley. Is there a question on the motion?

The motion is to approve Resolution No. 012. All in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman Harold. You may see a vacancy between 012 and 014. That was Resolution No. 013 that was rejected by the committee, which was one of the interim committee's resolutions.

Next is Resolution No. 014: Be it Resolved that Article XIV, Section 14.10 Paragraph 2 be amended to read as follows:

"Paragraph 2: Department and Chapters shall secure additional or other coverage from local sources at their own expense in the event their assets, other than real property, exceed $10,000. Such coverage shall be in the amount of the excess."

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 014.

Commander Colley. Mike One.

Mr. Friesema. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, seconds the motion.

Commander Colley. Is there a question on the motion?

The motion is to adopt Resolution No. 014. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carriers.

Chairman Harold. Resolution No. 015: Be it Resolved that Article XIV, Section 14.11, Paragraph 1 be amended as follows:

"Paragraph 1: National Officers whose duties require their attendance at official meetings of the Organization or in the conduct of official business of the Organization, as may be authorized by the National Commander or the National Adjutant, shall be paid travel and per diem expenses as determined by the National Finance Committee."

What's here, if you have a copy of Paragraph 1 of this article, it looks like the National Commander and the National Adjutant decides how much is going to be paid for the travel, but it's not ture. The per diem allowance is determined by the Finance Committee and the National Commander and National Adjutant can only authorize the travel.

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 015.

Commander Colley. Mike Three.

Mr. Sarrazin. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commander Colley. Is there a question on the motion?

The motion is to adopt Resolution No. 015. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman **Harold**. Resolution No. 016: Be it Resolved that Article XV, Section 15.3 be amended to add new paragraphs 10 and 11 (and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly) as follows:

"Paragraph 10." The present Paragraph 10 would become Paragraph 12.

"Paragraph 10." The National Executive Committee shall not approve a contract in which administration and costs of fund raising exceed percentages established as guidelines by accepted federal, state, advisory, and/or other regulatory agencies, except for contracts the nature of which do not lend themselves to an assessment of promotional or fund-raising costs, and which are regulated by the National Finance Committee under Section 15.3 herein."

And there's eight paragraphs in that.

Oh, I'm due for one error. Section 15.7, not 15.3. I had just glanced over at the other. There are eight paragraphs in that 15.7.

"Paragraph 11. A substantial portion of the net monies raised from all fund-raising projects herein shall be required to be devoted, within a reasonable time, to the cause or program for which they were raised."

At this time I move the adoption of Resolution No. 016.

Commander **Colley**. Mike One.

Mr. **Friesema**. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, seconds the motion.

Commander **Colley**. Is there a question on this motion?

The motion is to adopt Resolution No. 016. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman **Harold**. This is Resolution No. 017, and as Jerry McCarthy says, this is due process.

Resolution No. 017: Be it Resolved that Article XVI, Section 16.1, be amended by adding a new paragraph 3, and retaining and renumbering the remaining paragraphs thereof.

So that means that Paragraph 3 becomes Paragraph 4, 4 becomes 5, 5 becomes 6, 6 becomes 7. This new Paragraph 3:

"The member subject to the penalties which may be imposed under Paragraph 1 or 2 above shall be advised by Registered Mail of the intent to impose such penalty and the cause therefor. The Member shall have 30 days from receipt of such advice within which to request a hearing before the Department Executive Committee in the instance of a suspension under Paragraph 1, or the National Executive Committee in the instance of a suspension under Paragraph 2. In the event of a hearing, the findings of the Executive Committee shall be final subject to Paragraph 5 of this Article.

That's new 5.

"In the absence of a request for hearing, the Commander may impose the penalty."

What has been happening here, it seems that in one of the Departments the Commander had the Executive Committee together and just brought a man up on charges and didn't notify him what the charges were, found him guilty and sent it to National. National didn't have all the information, sent the man a letter what the penalty was.

Of course when National found out that the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee was in error, they had it corrected.

But this is going to give a warning that if the Department Commander or the Department Executive Committee do bring charges against a man they must notify him of the charges to give him an opportunity to be heard.

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 017.

Commender **Colley**. Mike Three.

Mr. **Sarrazin**. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commender **Colley**. Is there a question on the motion?

Mr. **Tillman**. Can there be a discussion on that subject, please? Point of order.

Commender **Colley**. Someone escort him to the mike, please.

Mr. **Tillman**. I'm Mr. James Edgar Tillman, Jr., from the city of Tallahassee, Florida. It used to be in Chapter 5.

This concerns me and this dilemma. I don't think I'm out of order. But I would like a clarification of the thing you are just trying to put across to the body as I understand it.

Now, I was brought for trial of a kangaroo court——

Commender **Colley**. Sir, the rules of this convention state that anything that comes before this must be of a general nature and not a specific claim or grievance of an individual. If what you have to say is not germane to the entire body, then you will have to take it up at another time.

Mr. **Tillman**. I beg your pardon. Excuse me, because I've never had to tell my side. Sorry about it.

Chairman **Harold**. What this resolution will do is it is going to protect your rights in the future.

Mr. **Tillman**. What about in the past?

Chairman **Harold**. Well, if you bring the complaint to the National Organization, I don't know, but maybe they might review it. I don't know what it is.

Mr. **Tillman**. No one can help me now.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion and a second. Is there further discussion?

Chairman **Harold**. Resolution No. 017.

Ms. **Jackson**. Comrade Commander, Mike Three.

Commender **Colley**. Mike Three, you're recognized.

Ms. **Jackson**. Jackson, Chapter 6, Virginia.

If this is approved, we will get copies of it, is that correct?

Commander **Colley**. Yes, ma'am I'm certain——

Ms. **Jackson**. It's not on the paper as now.

Commander **Colley**. You certainly have a copy of it in your hand now. If you do not——

Ms. **Jackson**. No, we we do not. It's not listed here.

Commander **Colley**. Resolution No. 017 is at the very top of page 6.

Chairman **Harold**. I made an error when I started, Comrade Commander. I was supposed to notify everybody, ask everybody if they had copies of this. There are plenty of copies up here, so if you don't have it you can pick up extra copies to take home.

From the floor. We can't hear you.

Commender **Colley.** On the question, all in favor of the motion to approve Resolution No. 017 signify by saying Aye. All opposed the same sign. Motion carries.

Chairman **Harold.** Resolution No. 018: Be it Resolved that Article XVII, Section 17.1 be amended to add a new paragraph as follows:

It's on page 56.

"Paragraph 5: The names and addresses of the members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, in whatever format, shall not be used for commercial purposes, in support or any political action committee, or for any political use. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit their use in fund raising as permitted in these Constitution and Bylaws."

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 018.

Commander **Colley.** Mike One.

Mr. **Friesema.** Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, seconds the motion.

Commander **Colley.** Discussion on the motion?

The motion is to approve Resolution No. 018. All in favor of the motion signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman **Harold.** Resolution No. 019: Be it Resolved that Article XVII, Section 17.2 be amended to omit Paragraph 2 thereof.

And unfortunatly, we didn't put the paragraph that we were going to omit and I will read that, what we are omitting from the Bylaws.

"Paragraph 2." It's on page 56. It says:

"A motion of interpretation shall be improper unless the matter sought to be interpreted is clearly ambiguous or uncertain of meaning."

None of us could interpret what this motion of interpretations was, so we thought it should be removed from the Bylaws.

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 019.

Commander **Colley.** Mike Three.

Mr. **Sarrazin.** Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commander **Colley.** Is there a question on the motion?

The motion is to adopt Resolution No. 019. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

Chairman **Harold.** This now is a recommendation from the committee. It's not a Bylaw change. We only need a 50 percent vote to be approved.

Resolution No. 020: Be it Resolved that the Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committee is authorized and directed to make grammatical and technical corrections to the National Bylaws, including the addition of an Index. In no event shall this Resolution be interpreted to permit substantive changes of any kind.

The purpose behind this is there are so many misinterpretations of the Bylaws and we're going to try to make it much easier for you. We're going to put an index in, we're going to put a table of contents in, we're going to put a small how to run a meeting in there that were taken up a few years back. There are places where the word should be capitalized and it's small letters.

And then we have that thing running all through the book, "or other subordinate units or unit," and everybody when they see that think it means the Auxiliary every time, but it doesn't mean the Auxiliary every time you see the "or other subordinate unit." It only means the Auxiliary where it says "other subordinate unit or Women's Auxiliary or Auxiliary." As you know, we have two Auxiliaries, the Trench Rates and the Women's Auxiliary.

And also we want it clarified where it says in the book "State Executive Committee." We have other places that say "Department Executive Committee" and then you have the "National Executive Committee," then it says "Executive Committee."

All we want to do is police the book up so it will be more readable. In the meantime, as you've been reading this handout here, it says Article VII, Section 7.2, Paragraph 1. A couple of times you have to say what's a roman numeral seven? So we're going to make sure that's Article 7, Section 7.2, instead of the roman numeral, to make it easier reading.

I move the adoption of Resolution No. 020.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. FRIESEMA. Jim Friesema, Keane Rankin Detroit No. 1, seconds the motion.

Commander COLLEY. Is there discussion on the motion?

The motion is to adopt Resolution No. 020. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed same sign. Motion carries.

Chairman HAROLD. I have two other things coming up now. Just bear with me one moment.

I want to thank you for your support on this, because we did do a lot of work on it and you don't realize how pleased we are that you did trust us to let these changes go through the way they did.

But we had a resolution that I guess was passed at one of the conventions and for some reason it got lost in the mail and it didn't arrive in time to the convention. And, of course, what they tried to do, they wanted us to accept the late resolution, which is very bad to do, because once you do it then other Departments will say, "Well, they did it for so-and-so. Let's do it for us."

But this is pertaining to the question of the ladies in the Department and where it says "the feminine gender" it was referring to changes in the Bylaws where they want to change "his and her" or "he and she" or "himself or herself" or "widow or widower", "men members or men persons", and we felt that it was not proper because she hadn't specified the particular sections in the Bylaws where that was shown. We did not accept it, but we are going to refer that resolution to the interim committee also. There's no vote needed on that because it's just being referred.

And then this is on Resolution No. 196. A gentleman yesterday spoke to me about it and I guess he got a little bit heated about it. I figured, well, we don't want anybody going away from the convention thinking that we didn't give him the opportunity to have his resolution heard, so this is something that's out of the ordinary. Probably a few years ago I wouldn't have bent the way I did, but just to make him know that we are trying to lead this convention in a peaceful way.

"Resolution: A resolution calling for the recognition of the sons of the Disabled American Veterans.

"Whereas the Disabled American Veterans have auxiliary units and they in turn have junior auxiliary groups, both of which are valuable to the parent organization, and

"Whereas, it would be desirable for the Chapters of the Disabled American Veterans to likewise have junior groups composed of sons of veterans' members and to have them duly certified as such,

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the acceptance of this resolution be with the understanding that any member of this auxiliary group will not be eligible for regular membership in the Disabled American Veterans after they become 18 years of age unless he has been in the service and eligible on his own.

"Be it further resolved by the Disabled American Veterans assembled in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, that it would be beneficial to the Disabled American Veterans organization and to their sons to establish an officially-recognized junior group to be known as The Sons of Disabled American Veterans."

The above resolution was submitted by Elmer Pond Chapter No. 1, Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was passed on the convention floor at the Indiana State Convention, held in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 20 to 23, 1985. Submitted by the Department of Indiana to Disabled American Veterans. Signed by Ed Nowack, the State Commander, and signed by Harold Fields, the State Adjutant.

And this resolution was unanimously rejected by the committee and I now move that the report of the committee to reject Resolution No. 196 be adopted.

Can we get a second on that?

Commander Colley. Mike Three.

Mr. Sarrazin. Sarrazin, Chapter 5, Texas. I second the motion.

Commander Colley. Question on the motion? Mike One.

Mr. Young. G.W. Bill Young, Elmer Pond Chapter 1.

The question on this motion, I feel that after 15 years of trying to get this resolution through that it should be considered by the body and thought about. I know it entails changing our Constitution, not just the Bylaws but the Constitution, in order to form a third auxiliary unit.

This resolution was put forth because it has been talked about with other chapters throughout the state and country and it has been agreed upon. My feeling at this point is that the floor should think what this would mean to the father who spends his time and who gives his all to further the Disabled American Veterans policies and to unite more of us disabled people together. That it would be great for the sons to be right along with their dads instead of being left out. This is why this resolution was proposed. Thank you.

And I also thank you for the opportunity of bringing this forth before the body.

Commander Colley. Is there further question on the motion?

Mr. Patterson. Comrade Commander.

Commander Colley. Mike One.

Mr. Patterson. R.G. Pat Patterson, Past State Commander, Department of Indiana.

I rise on this question for the reason that we're all talking about Vietnam veterans, and they're taking over this organization, which they are and doing a fine job, and yourself, Commander.

But let's go back just a few years, about 15, when this thing first started. We had our members that had youngsters, boys. You've got an auxiliary for the girls in the organization. The boys have nothing. They cannot help our organization; they're not allowed to. This is why Elmer Pond 1 started this thing 15 years ago.

We have National Service Officers in here, we have National Officers, including yourself, Commander, that have boys. What do they do while this convention is going on? Can they help our Disabled American Veterans? No, they're not allowed to.

That is why we want this. And I do believe just about half, maybe three-quarters of the people sitting in this room that have sons want this Sons of the Disabled American Veterans.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion——

Mr. KALCHECK. Comrade Commander.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. KALCHECK. I'm Commander Kalcheck from Chapter 125 from Hale, Michigan, the new Disabled American Veterans chapter. I was a Past Commander at the 114 in Livonia.

I have a son that's ten years old and I would like to get Sons of the Disabled American Veterans. I'm a life member in the American Legion, I'm a life member in the VFW, and I'm a life member in the DAV. I think whenever I take him to fruit visits in the hospitals, he goes with me, he makes a lot of the fellows that's been in there from World War II smile whenever they see a small fellow come in there at our fruit visit, and that makes me firm up.

So I think that we ought to try to get something for this. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Mike Two.

Mr. BRIDGES. Mr. Commander, Hollis Bridges, Chapter 26, Alabama.

This resolution, however well intended, is poorly written, redundant, and verbose. I agree that perhaps we should recognize sons of Disabled American Veterans, but the probability of them becoming disabled veterans is a separate issue entirely.

This motion speaks to their eligibility to DAV. They are not entitled to membership within the DAV as the daughters are in the auxiliary.

So I speak against the motion as written, not against the purpose as intended. The purpose as intended, as I say, is well intended and has merit. However, I feel that this motion as written should be defeated. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Mike Three.

Mr. BOWERS. PDC Earl Bowers, Chapter 1, Phoenix, Arizona.

I would like to speak on behalf of the Sons of the Disabled American Veterans. I think it would be the greatest organization. We're going out and promoting various programs within the schools for the youth of America and patriotism. I can assure you that there are many young sons of Disabled American Veterans who would be proud to belong to our organization, such as baseball, moto-cross racing teams, soccer teams, boy scouts, and what have you.

My son when he was growing up would have loved to have been involved. He was on all of the teams that we sponsored in Chapter 1, and there were quite a few. My son gained enough patriotism to want to be part of the United States military, and I'm proud to say that on July 1, 1985, he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I'm very proud of him and I think he would have been, too, if he had had the opportunity to belong to the Sons of the Disabled American Veterans.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. I recognize Joe Harold.

Chairman HAROLD. Mr. Commander, I want to remind you that this was discussed by the committee and it was unanimously rejected.

Now, we had tried several years ago to have an amendment to the Constitution to provide such as this and it failed.

And I want to remind you people out there that I happen to have three sons and I had no problem with the three sons whenever they came to the convention. In fact, one of my sons used to run around with a DAV uniform with a hat on that said, "My daddy is a member of the DAV." So I wouldn't want any resentment from thinking that I'm not in favor of the youth program. But we had our sons in the Boy Scouts and our daughter in the Girl Scouts and they were well taken care of in their youth through that group.

This group here, as one of the spokesmen said, when they become 18 years of age they're gone, and I think that we should not go on with this Constitutional change. It's almost impossible to do.

And I would just remind you that the recommendation of the committee was to reject, unanimously. Thank you.

Commander COLLEY. The motion before the body is to reject——

Mr. CACHIANES. Comrade Commander, Mike One.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. CACHIANES. I rise to——

Commander COLLEY. Please identify yourself for the record.

Mr. CACHIANES. Cachianes, Department of New York, sir.

Now, if we vote in favor of rejection of this resolution, although we all mean well by that—and certainly the Vietnam veterans are going to take over. We are old now and I agree that we should let them take over. However, this resolution that was made didn't take care of the poor old World War IIs. We have grandchildren now.

So if we're going to talk about our sons, what about our grandchildren?

So on that basis alone, I move that we reject this resolution. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Gentlemen, I sense that we have had sufficient discussion of this motion.

FROM THE FLOOR. Call for the question.

Commander COLLEY. The motion before the body is to reject resolution No. 196.

On the question, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. The motion is reject—the motion is affirmed and the amendment is rejected. [Applause.]

FROM THE FLOOR. Roll call. Roll call.

Chairman HAROLD. Comrade Commander——

FROM THE FLOOR. Roll call.

Chairman Harold. Comrade Commander, at this time I want to thank you all for the support you gave our committee report and we at this time move that the committee be discharged with thanks. Harold, Boston 10.

DAV Member. Mike One, Commander.

Commander Colley. Mike one.

DAV Member. I second that motion and go further on the question. I request a roll call for that decision that went past.

From the floor. No. No. No.

Commander Colley. The only thing before the body at this time is action on the motion to accept the report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and discharge the Committee

The motion is to accept the report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and discharge them. All in favor of the motion please signify by saying Aye. All opposed. The motion carries and they are so ordered. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned Resolutions 002-012 and 014-020 follow:]

Resolution 002—Amend Article III, Section 3.10, Rule 8

Be it resolved that article III, Section 3.10, Rule 8 be amended to omit the word "business" wherever it shall appear.

Resolution 003—Amend Article III, Section 3.10

Be it resolved that Article III, Section 3.10 be amended as follows:

Rule 8: Composition of Committee Meetings—Each Convention Committee shall be composed of one member or alternate from each of the National Districts, and one member or alternate from the Blind Veterans National Chapter * * *.

Rule 8(a) * * *. At such meeting the delegates in each District shall by a majority note of those present and voting elect one member and one alternate * * *.

Resolution 004—Amend Article III, Section 3.10 Rule 8(a)

Be it resolved that Article III, Section 3.10, be amended as follows:

Rule 8(a) Each National Executive Committeeman shall on the day prior to the opening session of the Convention * * *.

Resolution 005—Amend Article VI, Section 6.2, Paras. 1 and 2

Be it resolved that Article VI, Section 6.2, Paras. 1 and 2 be amended as follows:

Para. 1: Not less than ten persons, eligible for membership in this organization, who desire to form a chapter, shall make application for a charter to National Headquarters, using the form prescribed by the National Executive Committee. If there is an existing chapter in the same city, town or borough, then not less than fifty eligible persons shall sign the petition. No person who has been a member during the prior membership year shall be included in determining the above minimum numerical requirements.

Para. 2: Notwithstanding the provisions of Para. 1 of this section, where there is an existing chapter in the same city, town or borough, the State Executive Committee with concurrence of the National Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee alone, may reduce the minimum numerical requirements.

Resolution 006—Amend Article VI, Section 6.5, Para. 1(b)

Be it resolved that Article VI, Section 6.5, Para. 1(b) be amended by striking out the entire paragraph and substituting the following:

Para. 1: (b) If the National Commander has reason to believe that a Chapter, Department, or other subordinate unit has violated the Constitution and Bylaws he may suspend its charter for a period of not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days, pending completion of his investigation. He may, additionally, place the Chapter, Department, or other subordinate unit under trusteeship during this period. In his discretion he may recommend revocation of its charter, in which event the unit may appear before the National Executive Committee to show cause why its charter should not be revoked.

Resolution 007—Amend Article VII, Section 7.2, Para. 1

Be it resolved that Article VII, Section 7.2, Para. 1 be amended as follows:

Para. 1: The National Commander, by and with the consent of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint a National Adjutant and an Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters.

Resolution 008—Amend Article VII, Section 7.2

Be it resolved that Article VII, Section 7.2 be amended to substitute a new paragraph 2, (and the remaining paragraphs be renumbered accordingly) as follows:

Para. 2: The National Commander shall appoint an Inspector General whose duties are defined in Section 7.8.

Resolution 009—Amend Article VII, Section 7.4, Para. 3

Be it resolved that Article VII, Section 7.4, Para. 3 be amended to delete "an Assistant National Adjutant for Charitable Contributions and such other", and to add "one or more", so that the first sentence of the paragraph is as follows:

The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander and the National Executive Committee, shall appoint one or more Assistant National Adjutants as may be deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of his office.

Resolution 010—Amend Article VII, Section 7.7 and Section 7.8

Be it resolved that Article VII, Section 7.7 and Section 7.8 be amended to delete the words "National Director of Services and substitute the words "Eexecutive Director of the Washington Headquarters" wherever they may appear.

Resolution 011—Amend Article VII

Be it resolved that Article VII be amended to substitute a new Section 7.8, (and the remaining Sections be renumbered accordingly) as follows:

Section 7.8: Inspector General

Para. 1: The Inspector General shall, under the supervision of the National Commander and the National Adjutant, investigate any alleged violation of the National Constitution and Bylaws, including but not limited to occurrences in any department, chapter, subordinate or auxiliary unit which may impugn the integrity or reputation of the organization. He shall report his recommendations to the National Commander and the National Adjutant. He shall further be subject to implementing regulations of the National Finance Committee.

Resolution 012—Amend Article VIII, Section 8.3

Be it resolved that Article VIII, Section 8.3, be amended by striking out the entire Section and substituting the following:

The State Department shall elect a Commander, a Senior Vice Commander, one or more Junior Vice Commanders, and shall elect or appoint an Adjutant, a Treasurer, and a Department Inspector. It may elect or appoint such other officers as may be provided by its constitution and bylaws.

Resolution 014—Amend Article XIV, Section 14.10, Para. 2

Be it resolved that Article XIV, Section 14.10, Para. 2 be amended to read as follows:

Para. 2: Departments and Chapters shall secure additional or other coverage from local sources at their own expense in the event their assets, other than real property, exceed $10,000. Such coverage shall be in the amount of the excess.

Resolution 015—Amend Article XIV, Section 14.11, Para. 1

Be it resolved that Article XIV, Section 14.11, Para. 1 be amended as follows:

Para. 1: National Officers whose duties require their attendance at official meetings of the Organization or in the conduct of official business of the Organization, as may be authorized by the National Commander or the National Adjutant, shall be paid travel and per diem expenses as determined by the National Finance Committee.

Resolution 016—Amend Article XV, Section 15.3

Be it resolved that Article XV, Section 15.3, be amended to add new paragraphs 10 and 11 (and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly) as follows:

Para. 10. The National Executive Committee shall not approve a contract in which administration and costs of fund-raising exceed percentages established as guidelines by accepted federal, state, advisory, and/or other regulatory agencies, except for contracts the nature of which do not lend themselves to an assessment of promotional or fund-raising costs, and which are regulated by the National Finance Committee under Section 15.7 herein.

Para. 11. A substantial portion of the net monies raised from all fund-raising projects herein shall be required to be devoted, within a reasonable time, to the cause or program for which they were raised.

Resolution 017—Amend Article XVI, Section 16.1

Be it resolved that Article XVI, Section 16.1, be amended by adding a new paragraph 3, and retaining and renumbering the remaining paragraphs thereof:

Para. 3: The member subject to the penalties which may be imposed under Paragraph 1 or 2 above shall be advised by Registered Mail of the intent to impose such penalty, and the cause therefor. The member shall have 30 days from receipt of such advice within which to request a hearing before the Department Executive committee in the instance of a suspension under Paragraph 1, or the National Executive Committee in the instance of a suspension under Paragraph 2. In the event of a hearing, the findings of the Executive Committee shall be final subject to Paragraph 5 of this Article. In the absence of a request for hearing, the Commander may impose the penalty.

Resolution 018—Amend Article XVII, Section 17.1

Be it resolved that Article XVII, Section 17.1, be amended to add a new paragraph as follows:

Para. 5: The names and addresses of the members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, in whatever format, shall not be used for commercial purposes, in support of any political action committee, or for any other political use. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit their use in fund-raising as permitted in these Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 019—Amend Article XVII, Section 17.2, Para. 2

Be it resolved that Article XVII, Section 17.2, be amended to omit Para. 2 thereof.

Resolution 020

Be it resolved that the Interim Constitution and Bylaws Committe is authorized and directed to make grammatical and technical corrections to the National Bylaws, including the addition of an Index. In no event shall this Resolution be interpreted to permit substantive changes of any kind.

[The following affidavit was filed after the close of the above report and is included here by request:]

Let it be known that the two (2) delegate namely Bob Hudes and Mathew Ford of the Fourth (4th) District of the New Jersey Delegation representing Chapter #32 with a membership of eight hundred eighty two (882) Life and Annual members with the fourth largest vote representing the State of New Jersey with nineteen (19) votes hereby wish to go down on record as two nay votes to the proposed Amendments to the National Bylaws. Namely, Resolution #006: To Amend Article VI, Section 6.5, Para. 1(b); Be It Resolved that article VI, Section 6.5, Paragraph 1(b) be amended by striking out the entire paragraph and substituting the following: "Paragraph 1(b) If the National Commander has reason to believe that a Chapter, Department, or other subordinate unit has violated the Constitution and Bylaws he may suspend its Charter for a period of not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred eighty (180) days, pending completion of his investigation. He may, additionally, place the Chapter, Department or other subordinate unit under trusteeship during this period. In his discretion he may recommend revocation of its Charter, in which event the unit may appear before the National Executive Committee to show cause why its Charter should not be revoked.

Respectfully submitted this date, Wednesday, July twenty-four (24) in the year of our Lord nineteen eighty five (1985).

(Signed) Bob Hudes, 29032L06279.
(Signed) Matthew Ford, 29032L08490.

[The signatures were acknowledged by Charles C. Garretson, Notary Public, Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana.]

Commander Colley. I would like to recognize Kenneth Musselmann, National First Junior Vice Commander.

1st Junior Vice Commander Musselmann. Thank you, Commander.

Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, National Convention.

Sometimes in my duties and the other Line Officers' duties as a National Officer we are called upon to represent our organization before other organizations throughout this great land, and I had the honor this year to do just that. I was called upon to represent Commander Colley and the DAV in Tucson, Arizona, before the Southwestern Regional Conference of the Gold Star Wives. When I was asked to go down to their conference and speak to them about the DAV and our concerns, especially in the areas of DIC, our organization was a little bit concerned, because we do have proposals that are not quite in line with the Gold Star Wives and the Gold Star Mothers of this great organization of ours.

However, I would like to report that my trip was very successful and that that organization was very supportive of our efforts. And as an indication of their support of what our organization does do for them and all veterans, they gave to me and requested that I present to Commander Colley and the DAV this plaque, and I will read it to you. It says:

"To the Disabled American Veterans organization in appreciation of their interest and efforts on behalf of the Gold Star Wives of America, Incorporated. Presented on the 13th of April 1985 by the Tucson Chapter of the Gold Star Wives."

Commander Colley, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present this to you. [Applause.]

I would also like to add to that that in addition to that plaque, that same evening they did donate $100 to our National Service Foundation. [Applause.]

I have one other small thing here and it's really not a presentation, but I would like to pass it over to our National Adjutant. And just a little bit of information behind what it is.

When I attended the Department of Indiana convention, it seems that within that Department is a chapter, Chapter No. 7, the James Gresham Chapter, and this chapter was named after this particular World War I veteran, who happened to be the first American soldier killed in France during World War I. Some member in this chapter had gone back through a lot of periodicals and had found in the Liberty Digest dated November 24, 1917, a picture taken of Mr. Gresham's mother some 14 days after his death in France. They thought this was very significant, and I do believe it is too, in that this is a picture of this gentleman's mother standing before our flag just 14 days after he became the first American soldier killed in World War I in France.

So I would like to present this to our National Adjutant in the hopes that possibly they find an appropriate place in our National Headquarters to display this photograph. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. I recognize Bill Farmer, Chapter 39, California.

Mr. **Farmer**. It's an honor to be here.

Commander Chad, to you and the fellow officers and the delegates.

I have an award here for our National Commander, and may I read it. It's an "Appreciation Award for outstanding leadership through the untiring effort and unselfish effort of Commander Chad Colley, with the assistance of the Department and local Chapters have reached the one million goal. Donated by Antelope Valley Chapter 39, Lancaster, California."

This was made by a Vietnam veteran in honor of another Vietnam veteran, which I think is real fine. Lancaster, California, is the home of the space shuttle and the B-1 bomber. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Ladies and gentleman, please rise and I will ask our Chaplain Father Devine to lead us in a prayer.

[Everyone stands.]

Chaplain **Devine**. Heavenly Father, we know that Shalom in your first book, Genesis, embraces all of human life and activity. May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of You. Amen.

Commander **Colley**. This convention stands in recess until Thursday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m.]

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

July 25, 1985

The Thursday morning session of the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 25, 1985, and was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commander Chad Colley.

Commander **Colley**. It is proper that we pay recognition to our flag.

[Salute to flag.]

Chaplain Father Devine, will you please lead us in a few words of prayer.

[Everyone remained standing.]

Chaplain **Devine**. Lord God, new life is stirring, new dreams are on the way, new hopes are being readied. Create in us a new heart. Forge in us a new mind. This is the season of promise. God is at work among us.

Father, may we participate in building up Your Kingdom. Help us always to be aware of the awesome power for good that is present in our organization assembled here today. Amen.

Commander **Colley**. Be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to introduce to you the newly elected President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association for the introduction of the new C&A for the years 1985-86.

Please welcome Delbert Nelson from Minnesota. [Applause.]

Delbert Nelson [President, Commanders and Adjutants Association]. Thank you and good morning.

Mr. Commander, officers and delegates.

The officers for the year 1985-86 are as follows:

Vice President: Donald Melczak of Delaware.

Would you please stand.

Executive Board: Vincent Cassidy of Colorado; Robert Markley of Pennsylvania; and Asiat A. Ali of Vermont.

Adjutant: Walter D. Hyle, Jr. of Maryland.

Assistant Adjutant: Paul L. Thompson of Maryland.

Chaplain: Russell Henderson of Virginia.

Judge Advocate: Roy Mitchell of Alabama.

Resolutions Committee: Ed James of Indiana.

Constitution and Bylaws: Chester Clute of Michigan.

Nominating Committee: Walter Homer of Florida; Ernest Balcom of Florida; and Francis Pinkelmann of Kansas.

Finance Committee: Grant Meade of Utah; Eugene DiClemente of West Virginia; and Ralph Folskey of Delaware.

Officers of the Day: Lester Pittman of Florida.

These are the officers for the year 1985 and 1986. [Applause.]

What my few words are going to be now, that the State Commanders and Adjutants Association pledges their continuing support of the national programs of the Disabled American Veterans, and in this year 1985-86 we will concentrate on signing life members into the Disabled American Veterans and shall continue our efforts in that direction until we have reached our goal of one million life members.

Our National Adjutant, Mr. Denvel Adams, says he wants help in recruiting one million life members. Well, this year the State Commanders and Adjutants Association pledges their help. You ain't seen nothing yet. A million plus. Delbert B. Nelson, President. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Thank you, Delbert.

There were rumors that the rats ran yesterday. As living proof of that, please welcome, with me, my good friend of the DAV from the proud Department of Nebraska, the Imperial Golden Rodent, Jim Morgan. [Applause.]

John DiLaurenzio [National Order of Trench Rats]. Commander Chad Colley, ladies and gentlemen.

At this time, on behalf of the National Order of Trench Rats, I would like to make a donation to the DAV Service Foundation and this is for $4,000. [Applause.]

Also, Chad, I have another. This is for the Honor Roll. I have 15 names I would like to report to you now.

Names for DAV Honor Roll:

Imperial Officer having died in office: Robert D. Lyftogt, Imperial Executive Rat, 1983-84.

Imperial Rodents: J. Earl Merifield, Honorary Imperial Rodent, 1970; William F. Surgi, Sr., Imperial Rodent, 1951-52.

I would now like to read the resolution.

Whereas: God has seen in his infinite wisdom to call to the great beyond—the last three names I mentioned—and

Whereas: This Brother had, prior to his untimely demise, worked diligently and unselfishly to advance and safeguard the best interest of the Disabled American Veterans through his deeds and his devotion to the high ideals of this order, and

Whereas: He did by his acts and his diligence as Imperial Golden Rodent and Executive Rats and his service thereafter help lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position that it holds today in its service to the Disabled American Veterans.

Therefore be it resolved: By the National Order of Trench Rats assembled at this Sixty-first National Rendezvous in New Orleans, Louisiana, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing a sum of one hundred dollars ($100) each as a memorial to him to be placed in the trust account in the "Perpetual Rehabilitation Funds" of the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation, the income from which shall be used from time to time towards the maintenance of nationwide rehabilitation activities for disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors, and

Be it further resolved: That his name be inscribed on the Memorial Honor Rolls so that all may see and appreciate his work, sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the disabled veterans, as exemplified by the three names I just mentioned.

Also I would like to mention the other names on the Honor Roll:

John T. Solve, Imperial Bench Rat, 1977-78, Past National Commander.

Alfred L. English, Imperial Bench Rat, 1975-76, Past National Commander.

William R. Schroeder, Imperial Bubonic Plague, 1972-73.
Joseph L. Abinanti, Imperial Iron Claw, 1969-70.
Luke B. Ross, Imperial Black Plague, 1969-70.
Mark D. Ackley, Imperial Iron Claw, 1969-70.
Herschel Cranford, Imperial Hole-y Rat, 1968-69.
George J. Thompson, Imperial Black Plague, 1967-68.
Robert J. Crouse, Imperial Black Plague, 1966-67.
Herman T. Harrison, Imperial Hole-y Rat, 1965-66.
And Past Imperial Executive Rat, P. D. Jackson.
And Honorary Imperial Rodent, Max Huntington.

Commander Colley, these are the names on the Honor Roll. There's 15 names and we'd like to present this check to you for $1,500. [Applause.]

At this time I would like to introduce to you the new Golden Imperial Rodent, the 61st Golden Rodent, James Morgan. [Applause.]

JAMES J. MORGAN [Imperial Golden Rodent, National Order of Trench Rats]. National Commander Colley, National Officers of the Disabled American Veterans and Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, distinguished guests at the podium, DAV and Auxiliary delegates, my Brother Rats and Sister Cats of the National Order of Trench Rats and National Order of Alley Cats, and to all here assembled.

At this time I would like to make a break for a presentation. Will Mr. Denvel D. Adams please step forward.

Dale, it's always been customary for Doc to give you a bolo and it was alluded to that you have a foot locker full, so at this time I'm not going to read the whole proclamation in the interest of time, but "Denvel D. Adams is hereby made an Admiral in the great

Navy of the State of Nebraska this 25th day of July 1985." Signed Bob Kerrey, Governor.

Bob Kerrey, Vietnam, Navy Seal Team, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, member of DAV Chapter No. 7, Lincoln, Nebraska, sends his greetings to the National Commander and his staff and to you, Dale, the new Admiral.

And I've got to say this, Dale, the ups and downs, but in my book you're Mr. DAV.

Adjutant ADAMS. Thank you. And I thank you for the appointment, but I wonder where in the hell the boat is. [Laughter and applause.]

Imperial Golden Rodent MORGAN. I hear they have one on the Potomac. [Laughter.]

I stand before you, humble, but proud of the honor that has been bestowed upon me, the office of Imperial Golden Rodent. Many men want to be leaders, but darn few of them wish to shoulder the burden of decisions. May I make the right decisions and never let you down.

The many friends who have helped me move up to this high office are too numerous to mention, but I must name Imperial Rodents Ivor J. Williby, deceased, Sam Vigil, Dr. Henry E. Swann, Joe Gibbs, Jack Follis, Lee Henderson.

In addition, the Brother Rats from the new 15th District—would you please stand if you're here; AWOL as usual—who have given me encouragement and help, especially my Dugout 334, Lincoln, Nebraska, and last, but by no means least, my loving wife, Elaine Morgan, who has put up with me these many years and has walked beside me and given me strength.

The NOTR is an Auxiliary to the National DAV and as the dictionary so aptly says, auxiliary means helper, and help you we will as we have done in the past.

The DAV has gone over one million members and we are not a voice crying out from the wilderness. We are out front on all veterans' programs and we "aims to keep it that way."

I cannot promise you great things, but I will state that I will do my dead level best to carry on the great traditions of those who have preceded me in this office.

The Trench Rats are noted for their hard work and we will labor and grow so that we may carry out our obligation to the DAV.

To disbelieve is easy, to scoff is simple, to have faith is harder. I have faith in my country, the DAV, the NOTR, and we will prevail over all obstacles. After serving my country for so many years, both here and abroad, there is no finer place than our beloved America in which to live.

To each and every one of you, there is a place for competition, but a much bigger place for cooperation.

Again, my thanks to the Trench Rats for the confidence they have placed in me for this coming year.

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Thank you, Imperial Golden Rodent Jim Morgan.

We've got a housekeeping matter too and I would like to recognize Denvel Adams, National Adjutant.

Adjutant **Adams**. Comrade Commander, delegates, I have a resolution I would like to read and I will move its adoption.

"Whereas, the success of the 64th National Convention convened in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21-25, 1985, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of VA officials both in Washington, D.C., and New Orleans, Louisiana, and

"Whereas, many delegates to our National Convention were in need of medical treatment and required the assistance of prosthetic equipment to attend the National Convention, and

"Whereas, in response to this the health care officials from the VA medical center in New Orleans, Louisiana, have staffed and maintained in the cnvention hotel an excellent outpatient clinic and prosthetic service, and

"Whereas, the medical care and prosthetic services reendered to the delegates to the 64th National Convention have been extended in a most compassionate manner and have been of the highest quality,

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 21-25, 1985, expresses its sincere appreciation to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, whose dedication to the care and treatment of the delegates to this convention has made our convention a successful one."

I move the adoption of the resolution, Commander.

Mr. **Leach**. Commander Colley.

Commander **Colley**. Mike One.

Mr. **Leach**. Art Leach, Department Commander of the great state of Ohio. I'd like to second that motion.

Commander **Colley**. Delegates, we have a motion and a second on the motion.

All in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. Motion carries and so ordered.

I'd like to recognize Joe Harold at Mike Three.

Mr. **Harold**. Harold, Boston 10, at this time moves that Rule 24 be suspended so that we can have the final report of the Credentials Committee and the election of officers at this time.

Commander **Colley**. Mike Two.

Mr. **Pouliot**. Don Pouliot, Vice Commander, Department of California, seconds the motion.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion on the floor to suspend the rules and allow the closing of the credentials and the report of the Credentials Committee. On the motion is there a question?

All in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries and so ordered.

Now I'll recognize the Chairman of the Credentials Committee for his final report.

Dennis R. Guernsey. [Chairman Credentials Committee]. Commander Colley and delegates.

I realize with that motion that there is a great environment of anticipation here this morning, but I would ask for your patience for just a moment. There is a committee which has met at 8:00 o'clock a.m. for three days at this convention. I will not take time to introduce them individually, but I would ask that the Credentials Committee stand as a whole and be recognized. [Applause.]

The committee extends thanks to our able advisor, Mr. Bonnie Maile, to Mr. John P. Charlton, who has been with us and guided us daily, to all those who worked the registration desk and made our job easier, to Mr. Glenn Huffman, Mr. Greg Jackson, and of course John Charlton's secretary Alice, who always does the computations and makes my job up here a little bit easier.

Commander Colley, this is the final report of the Credentials, Committee. It reflects the total registration as of 9:00 o'clock a.m. July 25, 1985.

At the present time we have 655 Chapters, 34 Departments, 24 National Officers, 10 Past National Commanders, for a total of 1,627 delegates and 58 alternates, for a total vote of 10,069. [Applause.]

Commander Colley, this completes the final report of the Credentials Committee. I move for its adoption. The committee will be in abeyance until such time as we are dismissed. Thank you.

Commander **Colley**. Mike Three.

Mr. **Harold**. Harold, Boston 10, seconds that motion.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion to accept the report of the Credentials Committee. On the motion is there a question?

All in favor of the motion signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries.

We had a request of a delegate that anyone in this hall who is attending their very first National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, would you please stand. [Applause.] To you I can only say, see what you've been missing. [Laughter.]

Now I'd like to recognize Johnnie Goodman, please.

Johnnie Goodman [Texas]. Comrade Commander and delegates. I think that it is appropriate at this particular time that recognition be given to someone who needs no recognition because he has been one of the more outstanding leaders and commanders that this organization has ever had.

And to keep him reminded of the continuous prayers and support that we of this great organization offer toward him and his family, we have a small token of appreciation. I count it a real personal privilege to present to our Commander the symbol of this great nation of ours, this great soaring eagle that he can frame and put in his office and it will continually remind him at all times it was really tough to soar as an eagle as he did when you've got a bunch of turkeys like us to work with. [Laughter and applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Now I'd like to recognize Desmond Fortner.

Desmond C. Fortner. [Illinois]. Commander Colley, I have been given an assignment for this convention to bring a message to you and the blue caps and the officers of this national organization of the Disabled American Veterans.

There is a lady in our town, who asked to be or to remain anonymous, who has admired your work for the Disabled American Veterans this year and the work of the many members of this organization in bringing the membership to one million members. She is the mother of two DAV members, had been a national officer for a number of years with the American War Mothers, has visited the hospitals and assisted with disabled veterans for many years. She is in her eighties, unable to go to the hospitals or anything at the present time. She has stated that she dedicates the balance of her life to serving the Disabled American Veterans in any way possible.

She said, "Bring this message to your members. As long as you continue to elect leaders like that old Arkansas boy Chad Colley, your organization will continue to grow."

So, Chad, at this time it's my pleasure and an honor to present to you a little present that was sent here for you from this wonderful lady, who, by the way, donates financially as well as working to the service organization of the local chapter in her town.

She didn't forget that something should be done for your wife also, so she sent along a small present for her that I think will be very useful in your home.

At this time, if you don't mind, I would like to enlist the services of the Senior Vice Commander and Dennis Guernsey in helping you to display this.

She says that this is a hand-made flag and every stitch in this flag has love for Commander Colley and his family. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Thank you. And please convey my heartfelt thanks to her. That's certainly a labor of love.

Gentlemen, I think we are ready to hear from the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. William O. Cooper.

William O. Cooper [Chairman, Nominating Committee]. Thank you, Commander Colley.

The Committee on Nominations of National Officers was called to order July 22, 1985, by the Advisor that you had appointed, W. O. Cooper. The committee elected W. O. Cooper as Chairman. Mike Kizer was then elected as Secretary.

I appointed Billy Braswell, of Georgia, as Sergeant at Arms.

We went into the initial deliberations as to the rules of the committee and on July 23rd, the following day, the following people were interviewed for office:

Albert H. Linden for National Commander.

Gene Murphy for higher office.

Vernon Cardosi, National Vice Commander.

Boniface Maile for National Judge Advocate.

Reverend Carl Bergstrom for National Chaplain.

Ken Musselmann for Senior Vice Commander.

Steven Gaudette for higher office.

H. A. Geiger for higher office.

And William Slacum for 4th Junior Vice Commander.

I have read these in the manner in which their questionnaires were filled out.

The meeting was called to order again on July 25th, this morning, at 8:00 a.m. for the final deliberations and the complete list of candidates were discussed again.

On this morning another candidate appeared before us, Billy Kirby, who the questionnaire stated was a candidate for national office.

The following is the recommendation of the committee:

For National Commander we recommend Albert H. Linden, Jr., of Maryland. [Applause.]

For National Senior Vice Commander, Kenneth G. Musselmann, of California. [Applause.]

For National 1st Junior Vice Commander, Gene Murphy, of South Dakota. [Applause.]

For National 2nd Junior Vice Commander, H. A. Geiger, Jr., of Florida. [Applause.]

For National 3rd Junior Vice Commander, Billy Kirby, of Texas. [Applause.]

For National 4th Junior Vice Commander, Vernon Cardosi, of Massachusetts. [Applause.]

For National Judge Advocate, Boniface Maile, of Michigan. [Applause.]

For National Chaplain, the Reverend Carl Bergstrom, of Massachusetts. [Applause.]

These recommendations conclude our report to you and I should like to move that this report be accepted and the committee discharged from this National Convention.

And I would like for the committee to stand, if they are all present, or those who are present to stand. [Applause.]

I want to thank this committee for its diligence in attendance and deliberations, and I want to especially thank Mike Kizer for his work as Secretary and Billy Braswell for his work as Sergeant at Arms. They all did a fine job.

Commander Colley, with that motion, which I hope gets a second, that finishes the report.

Commander Colley. Mike One.

Mr. LeRoux. Comrade Commander.

Commander Colley. Mike Two.

Mr. LeRoux. LeRoux, Chapter 7, Department of Michigan, seconds the nominations.

Commander Colley. We have a motion and a second to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Did I understand your second to be that, sir?

We have a motion on the floor. Question?

Mr. Harold. Comrade Commander.

Commander Colley. Mike Three.

Mr. Harold. Harold, Boston 10. And discharge them with thanks.

Commander Colley. And discharge them with thanks.

We have a motion to accept the report and discharge the committee with thanks. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. Motion carries and so ordered.

Our Bylaws provide that nominations may be made from the floor and this will be done. First I would like to now say we'll entertain any other motions for the nominations of the office of National Commander.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Commander?

Third, are there any further nominations for the office of National Commander?

Hearing none, nominations for the office of National Commander are closed. I would entertain a motion that we instruct the Adjutant to cast one ballot.

Mr. Joe Harold. Comrade Commander.

Commander Colley. Go ahead, Joe.

Mr. **Harold**. I think we should have Paul Thompson make the nomination and then we can elect him, if it's okay.

Commander **Colley**. All right. We'll hear a nominating speech from Paul Thompson.

PNC **Paul Thompson**. Thank you.

Commander Colley, National Officers, National Staff, fellow delegates.

I'm deeply honored this morning to stand before you to place in nomination the name of an outstanding DAVer. I would like to take a few moments just to tell you a few things about the individual I will nominate for the high office of National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans.

First let me say that I am as happy, as proud and as honored to nominate Albert H. Linden, Jr., of Maryland, for National Commander of this great organization as I was six years and six days ago when I stood before the delegates of the 59th National Convention and accepted the nomination and election to the office of National Commander of this great organization.

I have known Al Linden for approximately 11 years and I have observed him very closely during his climb up the ladder in his Chapter, in the Department of Maryland and the national organization. From the very beginning I saw Al as a diamond in the rough, who only needed time to knock off the rough edges, gain the necessary knowledge of this organization and mature. I'm happy to say today that I'm nominating a highly polished, matured, finished product to serve as your National Commander.

Linden graduated from the University of Illinois in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science degree and entered the United States Army shortly thereafter as a Second Lieutenant. Linden was assigned as a lender of an armed helicopter platoon in Vietnam and flew over 300 combat missions before being seriously wounded by enemy ground fire in 1966. His wound resulted in the loss of his right leg below the knee.

After being discharged from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in late 1966, he was selected for retention on active duty even though not meeting the physical standards. In fact, he became the first amputee in the history of the United States Army to be returned to flying status and active duty and retired as a Major, [applause] after which he received a Master of Business Administration degree from the American University in 1969.

I have been told by my fellow comrades around the country that Al talks to the members of the DAV around the country and helps them with their problems, and he will continue to do so as he is one of the troops.

Al has displayed his leadership ability in serving many offices in his Chapter and the Department of Maryland and served as Department Commander in 1980. He has been an outstanding member of the Department Finance Commission and has served as your National 2nd Junior Vice Commander, 1st Junior Vice Commander, and currently Senior Vice Commander. Al is fully qualified and prepared to assume the responsibility of National Commander.

Al is following in the footsteps of some great National Commanders of this organization. He has the qualities to continue this outstanding leadership and face the new challenges that will appear, and with a million member organization to support him, he will give us the necessary leadership to carry out our goals and protect our benefits.

Linden is presently employed as Deputy Administrator for the Energy Department's information system and only recently received the President's meritorious award citing him as the "Architect of the nation's energy information system."

Al is active in the leadership of several community organizations and he and his wife, Patricia, live in Camp Springs, Maryland, and are the parents of two sons, James and Joseph.

It is a great pleasure for me, a personal privilege and an honor to place before you the nomination of Albert H. Linden, Jr., from the great State of Maryland, for the office of National Commander of this great organization. And "you ain't seen nothing yet!"

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Mike Three.

Mr. MCCARTIN. Bill McCartin, of Baltimore Chapter No. 1, Maryland.

I, on behalf of all the delegates here assembled, rise to remind everyone that Al Linden comes from Maryland's smallest chapter, John C. Demarr Chapter No. 36, growing at the rate of 38 percent a year for the past four years, and Al has played a very active role in that chapter, in community affairs, in legislative programs, in the hospital program. He is truly a dedicated blue cap and he has never forgotten us at the roots, and we wholeheartedly second the nomination of Al Linden for National Commander. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Mike Two.

Mr. FRIESEMA. Jim Friesema, of Detroit, Michigan, moves at this time that the National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Al Linden for National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans for 1985–1986. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Joe Harold.

Mr. HAROLD. Joe Harold, Boston 10, seconds that motion.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion to so instruct the Adjutant.

On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. So ordered.

Adjutant ADAMS. I, Denvel D. Adams, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Al Linden for the office of National Commander. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. We will now proceed with any further nominations for the office of National Senior Vice Commander.

Mr. CACHIANES. Comrade Commander, Mike One.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

Mr. CACHIANES. Cachianes, Department of New York. I now move, sir, that we suspend the rules and we unanimously elect the slate as proposed by the committe on nominations.

Commander COLLEY. We must give an opportunity to nominate from the floor. Therefore, I'll have to rule against you.

Mike One.

Mr. CACHIANES. We're very democratic here, but brevity should be the keynote at this convention.

Adjutant ADAMS. Stand up, Nick, so we can see you.

Commander COLLEY. Are there any further nominations for the office of National Senior Vice Commander?

Are there any other nominations for the national office of Senior Vice Commander?

I would entertain a motion that the rules be suspended. Mike Two.

Mr. GOODMAN. Comrade Commander, I'm John Goodman, delegate from Chapter No. 26, in Texas.

I move you, sir, that nominations cease for the office of National Senior Vice Commander and the Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for the comrade Ken Musselmann for the office of Senior Vice Commander.

Mr. POULIOT. Don Pouliot, Vice Commander, Department of California, is pleased to second the motion.

Commander COLLEY. On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. Opposed. So ordered. [Applause.]

Adjutant ADAMS. I, Denvel D. Adams, National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Ken Musselmann for the office of Senior Vice Commander. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Are there any further nominations for the office of 1st Junior Vice Commander, 2nd Junior Vice Commander, 3rd Junior Vice Commander, 4th Junior Vice Commander, National Judge Advocate, or National Chaplain?

Mr. CACHIANES. Comrade Commander, Mile One.

Commander COLLEY. Mile One.

Mr. CACHIANES. Cachianes, Department of New York. Not being very polite, I still make that motion to suspend the rules and unanimously elect the slate as recommended by the committee on nominations.

Commander COLLEY. There being no further nominations apparent from the floor, we have a motion to suspend the rules——

MIKE ONE. Commander, Mike One.

Mr. MINUTELLI. Point of order, please. Point of order is always in order.

Commander COLLEY. Mike Three.

Mr. MINUTELLI. My name is Minutelli, and I come from Rhode Island.

I want you people to know one thing, folks. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee made an insulting remark to me this morning. You people might have not caught it, but I did.

I'm a New Englander and I'm proud of the man that represents us in New England that is presently your Junior Vice, that's Steven Gaudette.

The remark made was, and that insulted my intelligence, that Mr. Kirby's recommendations were handed to that gentleman this morning. Now, you and I know that anybody can't make a recommendation immediately when he's handed the thing this morning——

Commander COLLEY. Is your purpose to make a nomination?

Mr. MINUTELLI. No, I rise because of a point of order and I had the point of order.

The point of order is, I am talking on the motion because you asked for anybody for nominations for any more Junior Vice, and what I'm doing is trying to clear the air here.

I did want to nominate a man, but the man doesn't want to be nominated. I'm just here to tell you that I don't want my intelligence insulted by a gentleman telling me that what he did. [Applause.]

MIKE ONE. Commander, Mike One.

WILLIAM O. COOPER [Chairman, Nominating Committee]. I would like a moment of personal privilege.

I don't recall insulting the intelligence of the gentleman. I would challenge——

Mr. MINUTELLI. Check the minutes. You said it.

Chairman COOPER. I would challenge——

Mr. MINUTELLI. You have the reporter right there. You said it.

Chairman COOPER. You don't mind if I have the floor? You had it.

This report says another candidate, Billy Kirby, appeared before the committee. That is true. That's exactly what happened. And if it hadn't happened that way I wouldn't—it wouldn't be in this report.

FROM THE FLOOR. Sit down.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion on the floor.

PNC JOYNER. Commander, Mike One.

Commander COLLEY. Mike One.

PNC JOYNER. Dennis Joyner, Chapter 36, Department of Pennsylvania, Past National Commander, seconds that motion.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion to cease nominations and have the Adjutant cast one unanimous ballot for the remaining offices.

On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. So ordered.

Adjutant ADAMS. I, Denvel D. Adams, National Adjutant of the Disabled Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for the office of 1st Junior Vice Commander, Gene Murphy; 2nd Junior Vice Commander, H. A. Geiger; 3rd Junior Vice Commander, Billy Kirby; 4th Junior Vice Commander, Vernon Cardosi, for the office of National Judge Advocate, Boniface Maile; for the office of National Chaplain, Carl Bergstrom. [Applause.]

Mr. HAROLD. Comrade Commander.

Commander COLLEY. Mike Three.

Mr. HAROLD. Harold, Boston 10. At this time I move that the Credentials Committee be discharged with a vote of thanks.

Commander COLLEY. We have a motion. Mike Two.

Mr. POULIOT. Don Pouliot, Vice Commander, Department of California, seconds the motion.

Commander COLLEY. On the motion to dismiss the Credentials Committee with a vote of thanks, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed. So ordered.

I would ask the Officer of the Day and his assistants to please escort the families of the newly-elected officers to the dais, please.

MIKE TWO. Comrade Commander, Mike Two.

Commander COLLEY. Mike Two, what is the purpose for which you seek recognition?

Mike Two. Comrade Commander, we just released the Credentials Committee. I think that motion was for the Nominating Committee, to release the Nominating Committee.

Mr. **Harold.** Point of order, Comrade Commander. We had—Harold, Boston 10. Am I recognized?

Commander **Colley.** We had previously released the Nominating Committee. The motion was for the Credentials Committee to be dismissed and that was correct.

Mr. **Harold.** Comrade Commander, Mike Three.

Commander **Colley.** Mike Three.

Mr. **Harold.** Harold, Boston 10. We're coming to the end of your term of office, and I for one—and I know I can't make a motion because I'm speaking now—I for one want to thank you, because every time I saw you my heart went out to you, you did such a splendid job. You and Dennis, you're just so great and there are so many words I'd like to say to you.

But I would like to have the audience, if they will, just please stand and say thank you, Chad, for what you've done for us. Thank you, Chad.

[Rising applause.]

Commander **Colley.** My inclination is to rule you out of order, but being human I'll let it pass. [Laughter.]

Mr. **Harold.** I didn't make the motion.

Adjutant **Adams.** I'll second the motion, in any case.

We have a wallet up here that belongs to Joe Gerald Ellis that was lost out in the lobby.

Commander **Colley.** Delegates to the 64th annual convention, friends and guests, please welcome with me for the purpose of recognition of his family and his acceptance speech your National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Albert Linden. [Applause.]

Albert H. Linden, Jr. [National Commander Elect, DAV]. Thank you. Thank you very much, Commander Colley. And, Chad, I truly appreciate the opportunity you've given me over this past year to work so closely with you.

I also want to thank Past National Commander Paul Thompson, who said some very kind things about me in nominating me for the office of National Commander. Paul, your support and your exceptional leadership are one of the most meaningful and kind things that I have ever seen in my life, and I appreciate that from the bottom of my heart.

And, Paul, thank you for setting a standard to challenge each and every one of us.

Before I launch into my remarks this morning, let me introduce a very few special people. And it's going to have to be quick. I can hear them talking in the background already.

First there's my wife of 28 years, Pat. No one could ask for a finer partner in life. Pat. [Applause.]

Then there's my oldest son, Jimmy, and his wife, Cheryl. [Applause.]

And the newest members of our family, our granddaughters Nicky and Heather. [Applause.]

And I'm going to dismiss my grandchildren. They can go back and play.

Next there's my youngest son, my good buddy, Joe. [Applause.]

And I couldn't leave out the lady who's been with me from the very start. She's guided me from my earliest years and given me the support and courage to move on. That's my mother, Mrs. Edith Linden, of Florida. Mom. [Applause.]

And finally, my heart goes out in gratitude to you, the delegates to the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans. Today you've chosen me to fill the DAV's highest office. You've given me the most special moment of my life. And I accept that office and the challenge you've presented me.

I'd love to list all of the people who have helped me climb to the top of this mountain, but it would take that wall back there to hold all the names. Also, it would take forever. However, there are a few friends in the DAV I really have to mention.

First of all, there's a gentleman who got me started in the DAV. He encouraged me to take an active role and he's earned my deepest respect. He's Lester Flint of my home chapter, DAV Chapter No. 36, in Maryland. Lester. [Applause.]

I'd like to extend the same gratitude to the members of Chapter No. 36 and to the members of the Department of Maryland for their outstanding support over the years. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

I also want to thank all of the DAV's National Service Officers, particularly the NSOs in Washington, Baltimore, and the Board of Veterans Appeals. No veterans' organization in the world can claim a better corps of service professionals. Your dedication and excellence is unsurpassed.

My fellow members of the DAV, you've placed trust in me when you elected me as your National Commander. I'll do everything in my power to deserve that trust. And the honor you've given me is greater than any other honor I could have hoped for, because it came from a group of people who have sacrificed more for their country than any other American, save those who gave life itself.

A year from now I hope you'll feel that I've merited that Honor and that trust.

I'm not one to hide my emotions and what I feel in my heart right now is overwhelming. And those feelings are stronger because this is a time of great crisis and great challenge in the world of veterans' affairs. The dangers that we face today could destroy America's system of veterans' benefits and services.

Our most pressing challenge lies in the VA budget that Congress is considering right now. Sadly, the threat of drastic cuts in the VA budget is nothing new to us in the DAV. Year after year, salvo after salvo has been fired at the programs that serve us.

Now they're at it again. The enemies of your benefits are attacking with a vengeance. It's unlike anything we've seen in modern times. They're working overtime. They're trying to convince America that you, her disabled veterans, are responsible for the monstrous debt that burdens our government. Yet these people are the real villians in this drama.

You know their names. They're very familiar to you. David Stockman. He's the guy who thought he was better than you and me. He was too good to serve his country in Vietnam and he dodged the draft. And he continued to look down on you and me during his stormy tenure as the President's Budget Director. He never missed a chance to cut programs designed to help those who accepted duty for their country while he shirked.

That a draft dodger should have anything to say about veterans' benefit programs makes me angry. What about you? [Applause.]

You should also know about J. Peter Grace, the gun-toting corporate bigshot who chaired the so-called Grace Commission. Many of you have heard me refer to that earlier in your states as the dis-Grace Commission.

He heads up a firm called W. R. Grace & Company, which is a benefit program that makes the VA program look sick. Yet J. Peter Grace thinks the veterans are getting way too much. Well, who's given more for their benefits, the employees of J. Peter Grace or the veterans wounded on the field of battle?

You should all know that Grace is also buying his way into the health care system and at the same time he's recommending destruction of our VA hospitals.

Come on, Peter Grace, who are you trying to kid? Isn't that the old game of the rich getting richer? Aren't the pawns in your game the men and women who lost limbs and sacrificed health and paid the price of the free enterprise system?

In the meantime, let me tell you that Grace's company paid no taxes last year, in fact in the last four years. To be exact, it was over $600 million in profits that he's made in those last four years and not one dime of it has gone back into the treasury. Is that fair?

From the floor. No. No.

Commander Elect **Linden.** You bet Grace makes me mad. I know that he makes you mad too.

And then there's Butch's favorite, Alan Simpson, once Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and now Senate Majority Whip. What does Simpson think about the way America sorts out how it can best deal with the needs of its war veterans? He stands on the floor of the Senate and calls it a "tedious and pathetic process"!

Well, you know what's tedious and pathetic. It's Simpson's rhetoric, the kind of rhetoric you heard a few years back when he got up at our DAV convention and portrayed the patients at VA hospitals as a bunch of winos and drug addicts.

I've had it with that kind of talk. I hope you've had it too. [Applause.]

Let's take a look at reality here. Spending on just about every federal program that exists has been allowed to skyrocket. Every one, that is, but the Veterans' Administration. VA spending has increased very little, and that's quite a record for an agency that's handled the needs of four wars during this century.

Indeed, over the past ten years, VA spending has fallen behind inflation. There's been no growth at the VA, but still that's too much growth for the budget cutters. And they're aiming their knives at you and me and they're aiming at the agency that serves us, the VA.

Well, to these folks I say, "Hold on." The DAV will not allow anyone to balance the federal budget on the backs that bear the scars of our nation's wars! [Applause.]

We will have to win this fight ahead. To do so we must constantly remind our countrymen of who we are and what we sacrificed for America.

We have to ask some questions here. Does the average citizen recall the blood spilled at the Inchon invasion?

Does John Doe think about the bullets that tore the flesh of America's youth at the siege of Hue?

Does he give any thought to the rat-infested trenches, pounded by German shells, on the Maginot Line?

News reports about the 40th anniversaries of World War II will come to an end next month. Who then will recall the slaughter of young life in the world's largest and costliest war?

How many even give a moment's thought to the sacrifices Americans made in Grenada and Beirut less than two years ago?

The memory of war fades fast, and with it fades the commitment to those who gave so much in war.

But yes! We do expect our countrymen to remember what we've given for our fellow Americans. However, America has a right to expect something from us as well and that's leadership in our communities which in every way matches the leadership we've shown on the field of battle.

And not only America, but we disabled veterans ourselves, have a right to ask more of the DAV. All of us, from the National Commander to the rank and file member, must take up that challenge.

The DAV is the best, but even the best can be improved. And we must be more effective when it comes to our country's and our organization's purpose, service to the disabled veterans and their families.

To get that job done we should ask ourselves some soul-searching questions, questions like these:

Does your chapter have a chapter service officer or even more than one?

Is he or she active and well-known in the community for the work that gets done?

Does the chapter have a go-get-'em grass-roots legislative program?

What about the service and legislative programs in your department? Are they up to par?

Are you doing the simple but meaningful things, such as conducting DAV services at the funeral home or cemetery when a member dies?

Do you ever follow up by visiting the surviving spouses to find out how the DAV can help? And then do you make sure that that help is forthcoming?

Are your chapter meetings informative?

Does your chapter have an auxiliary unit? What about a junior auxiliary?

Do the women in your own family belong to the auxiliary?

Does your chapter have a newsletter to let the members know when and where the meetings are held?

What has your chapter and your department done to keep the community aware of those who fought in Korea and Vietnam but remain missing or unaccounted for?

These are just a few of the questions that we'll be asking ourselves to think about and act upon during the coming year.

As we go through that year, you'll be asked to keep up the great work that you're doing in the membership arena as well. You saw what the one million member DAV clout can do. You saw it kill the attack and the attempt to tax your benefit checks.

Keeping that picture in mind, just imagine what one million life members can achieve. That dream can become a reality, just as surely as our earlier membership goals are the realities of today.

Listen, I've laid out a pretty ambitious agenda here this morning, and I know that. But I also know what the DAV can do, what you can do, because I've seen it first-hand and been involved at all levels of the organization.

Now, many of you know that I was once Commander of the Department of Maryland. But I think darned few of you know that I didn't get elected the first time I ran for office. I got beat. I'm human. I was hurt when I was defeated in my first bid for Department Commander.

I tell you that because I know you've had your disappointments as well. We've all had our moments of discouragement.

But I know what keeps you going. It's the same thing that keeps me going. We love the DAV. [Applause.] We love what we're doing for disabled veterans. We know what we are doing is really something special.

When I think about this I remember one hurried day when I was whizzing through a VA hospital, one that serves our long-term patients. While going through a lunch room I spotted an older guy, all by himself in a wheelchair. He had a board across his lap to eat his lunch on. He was lonely. You've seen guys like him. You know what I mean.

When I went up to shake his hand, he wouldn't let go. It was pretty obvious that he couldn't communicate very well, but his face was just filled with need.

I sat with him and talked with him for about five minutes. Just five minutes. The guy was all smiles. And as I walked away, I looked back and that old vet was all wound up. With five minutes of my time, I made his day.

You might say I gave something to him, but I don't feel that way. He made my day. Making him happy was a gift to me. It's that old guy's smile.

I'm no different from you. That old vet's smile motivates all of us, doesn't it? He's the reason why we're here. [Applause.] We're doing it for him, and having the opportunity to do it is a gift to us.

That's what makes our organization tick. That's what makes the DAV great. That's why the DAV has a bright, exciting future!

Our successes are unmatched because of you and your hard work, because of what you're doing to help another disabled veteran.

We're going to get the one million life members for the DAV. And we're going to do so much more! Let me put it as simply as I can:

You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet!

Thank you and God bless.

[Rising applause.]

Commander **Colley**. Thank you, Al. We're wound up just like that vet you were alluding to.

Now please recognize with me your National Senior Vice Commander, from the proud Department of California, Kenneth Musselmann. [Applause.]

Senior Vice Commander Elect **Musselmann**. Thank you, Chad. National Commander Colley, National Commander Elect Linden, newly-elected officers, national staff, delegates, and ladies and gentlemen.

Again it is a deep and proud moment in my life to stand before you as your Senior Vice Commander for the year '85–86. I would like for you to at this time help me in thanking someone that is very, very special in my life, somebody that without her support I would not be able to do the job that you expect, I would not be able to perform the duties of the offices that you've elected me to.

It gives me a deep pleasure and I have a lot of pride and a lot of love for this lady, so please help me in welcoming and thanking my lovely wife, Diane. [Applause.]

This has to be, without a doubt, one of the proudest moments of my life, being selected to serve as your National Senior Vice Commander, and I would like to tell you my dedication, my devotion and my pride for this organization has never been higher than it is at this particular moment. And to be quite truthful with you, that devotion and dedication and pride grows on a continuing basis, grows from day to day. And as long as I continue to grow that way, I know that I will do the utmost of my ability to serve you as your Senior Vice Commander.

The efforts that we have to put forth in the next year must be monumental. We've just had a tremendous year. We've reached goals and accomplished things that were beyond our wildest dreams.

And Chad, today I'd like to tell you that under the leadership of our newly-elected Commander, Al, and with the support of our newly-elected national officers, our national staff, and with these people out here, we will continue to do it for the remainder of the year. So you can go home, relax, rest easy, because you've left this organization in good hands in our newly-elected Commander, Al Linden. [Applause.]

You know, I think we've just begun to rise in this organization. Three years ago we thought that a million members was unheard of. We now have it. We're now going to make one million life by the end of next year. I know deep within my heart we're going to do that. And I don't see that this organization has even begun to realize the goals we can again.

And I know with your support out there that those goals are certainly within reach and that we are going to have another banner year in 1985 and '86, another year that when we come back here, next year in Reno, we can say:

We Did it Again!

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **Colley**. And now please welcome and recognize with me your newly-elected National 1st Junior Vice Commander, from the Department of South Dakota, Gene Murphy. [Applause.]

1st Junior Vice Commander Elect MURPHY. Thank you, Commander Chad.

Commander Elect Al Linden, National Officers, National Staff, delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I thank you for your support. First of all, I'd like to introduce my family, who supports the DAV and who has supported me.

My wife, Eldeen. [Applause.] And my daughter, Erin. [Applause.]

As we look at the future of the Disabled American Veterans, we will face many challenges. I feel we are a very close-knit family. We together will move forward to protect the benefits and serivces for all disabled veterans. As I traveled throughout the United States this year I saw many departments and I say many chapters and you are very super people to me.

Together we must forward to make sure that we protect these benefits, the health care, the compensation, and the many other threats that will face us. And I know together—together if we work we can accomplish any goal, we will climb that mountain.

We will recruit one million life members by the year 1986.

God bless you and thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Delegates, please welcome with me your newly-elected 2nd Junior Vice Commander, H.A. Geiger, from the proud state of Florida. [Applause.]

1st Junior Vice Commander Elect GEIGER. Commander Colley, Commander Elect Linden, my fellow officers, fellow members, ladies and gentlemen.

I'd like to introduce to you my wife, Dionne. [Applause.]

I once again would like to thank you for your support this past year. The support that my fellow officers and the National Staff gave us this year provided a good base line, a good foundation to begin a very successful year, and I believe that is exactly what we have had. It has certainly been a pleasure for me to play a small part in that process.

I want also to thank once again the Commander of the state of Florida, Jerry Montone, and all the members of the state of Florida. Once again, they supported me very enthusiastically and very unselfishly and I appreciate them very much. Because of them I'm here today. The state of Florida is becoming a fabulous department and I'm extremely proud to be part of it, as I am to be a part of the DAV.

I feel as though I have one million-plus friends in this country, and I think that's the thing that makes this organization so interesting and so appealing to so many of us, in addition to the marvelous programs and services that we provide, and I appreciate you allowing me to play a small part in that. I look forward to playing a small part in it again next year.

With your help and your support we're going to remain a fabulous organization and one that we can all be very proud of and proud to tell our friends about it and encourage them to come and be a part of this fabulous family.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. Now please welcome and recognize with me a good and dear friend of the DAV, your newly-elected National 3rd Junior Vice Commander, Billy Kirby, from the proud state of Texas. [Applause.]

Third Junior Vice Commander Elect **KIRBY**. Commander Colley, Commander Elect Linden, National Officers and delegates.

With your permission, I'd like to present my family, the fine people from the state of Texas. Stand up back there. [Applause.] Thank you.

It's with a deep feeling of humility and pride that I receive this honor, and I wish to express my deep gratitude to each of you who afforded me the opportunity to serve the DAV this coming year.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **COLLEY**. Now please welcome and recognize with me your newly-elected 4th Junior Vice Commander, from the magnificent state of Massachusetts, Vernon Cardosi. [Applause.]

Fourth Junior Vice Commander Elect **CARDOSI**. Thank you very much, Commander Colley.

Commander Elect Al Linden, National Staff, National Officers.

Today this is indeed a very proud day in my life, to be elected a National Officer in this great organization.

Commander Linden, I pledge to you my untiring support in all your endeavors this coming year. That I promise you.

I'm also saddened today that my wife of 28 years can't be with me today, witnessing all these beautiful families here today. She is recovering very nicely from eye surgery, so she couldn't attend this convention.

But I'm also very, very fortunate not only to be a member of the Disabled American Veterans, but to be a member of the great state of Massachusetts. I'd like to introduce to you today my family, my second family, Commander Michael Riley and the rest of the delegation of Massachusetts. Will you please stand up. [Applause.]

God bless you all and thank you. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **COLLEY**. Please recognize with me and show your appreciation for our long-time servant of the DAV, our newly-elected National Judge Advocate, Boniface Maile, from Michigan. [Applause.]

National Judge Advocate Elect **MAILE**. Thank you, Comrade Commander, and my dear fellow delegates and friends.

Please accept my sincerest gratitude for allowing me to serve this coming year. Rest assured I will do everything in my power 24 hours a day to keep this organization great.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **COLLEY**. And please recognize with me and show your appreciation for our newly-elected National Chaplain, the Reverend Carl Bergstrom, from Massachusetts. [Applause.]

National Chaplain Elect **BERGSTROM**. Commander Chad, Commander Elect Al, my Brothers and Sisters in my adopted family of the Disabled American Veterans.

I want to introduce, first of all, before I forget, because I've been known to do that, I want to introduce my wife of 33 years—it had better be 33; I think we have a 33-year-old son. [Laughter and applause.]

I'd like to introduce two good friends of ours, Lee and Garold Marr, from the fine state of Indiana, who are sitting over there. [Applause.]

And I don't want this to be one-upmanship, but I've really got to introduce some particular people because they have been very important in my life.

First of all, to my Brothers and Sisters in my DAV family who adopted me 30 years ago at this time, in the state of Indiana, when I became a member of the Disabled American Veterans. Where's the state of Indiana? [Applause.]

Also my Brothers and Sisters in the state of Massachusetts, who encouraged me and supported me and, as you can see, made me a Commander last year. I replaced a good man, Vernon Cardosi, and I was replaced by a good man, Mike Riley. My Brothers and Sisters in the state of Massachusetts. [Applause.]

And also I have a dual life membership which is important to me, because I'm also a life member in the National Amputation Chapter. So I salute my Brothers and Sisters in the state of New York. [Applause.]

Commander Al, I pledge to you, as I pledge to all of the members of the disabled American Veterans, my continued support. It has been very important to me. I have been National Chaplain before. I was replaced by a very good man, a good friend of mine, a co-worker in the Veterans administration, a co-worker in the Disabled Americans veterans, Father Pat Devine. I look for his continued support as I will support him and we will continue together.

And you can be assured of my continued prayers now and always. God bless you all.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander COLLEY. I would now like to ask the National Adjutant to read for the record the list of the newly-elected members of the National Executive Committee and make any announcements that we would have at this time.

Adjutant ADAMS. NEC 1st District, Stanley Greeley.

3rd District, Asiat A. Ali.

5th District, Robert Markley.

7th District, Harry McDonald.

9th District, James Allred.

11th District, John Kirch.

13th District, Benjamin Green.

15th District, Billy Hough.

17th District, Charles Pharr.

19th District, James Abbott.

21st District, John Edgin.

Commander COLLEY. If there is no further business to come before this convention, I would recognize, for the purpose of the adjournment, Mike Three.

Mr. HAROLD. Harold, Boston 10, moves at this time that we adjourn and when we adjourn we think of Jim Pellegrini, who worked for this organization for many years, in a moment of silence.

Mr. POULIOT. Don Pouliot, Senior Vice Commander, Department of California. I speak for all delegates. We just don't want this great convention to end. We want to delay it two more seconds.

I will second the motion.

Mr. **Friesema**. Comrade Commander, Jim Friesema, Michigan, would like the delegates to remember in their prayers a Past National Commander from Michigan, John Soave.

Commander **Colley**. We have a motion that the convention adjourn sine die and a second.

On the motion, all in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed the same sign. So ordered.

Chaplain, would you please close us with prayer.

Chaplain **Devine**. There are two announcements. One, a gentleman from the southwest, I believe, from Texas, asked me for a Judeo-Christian prayer, and I'm available for that.

The second is the sad news that Henry Oakes, of Chapter No. 26, from Chesapeake, Virginia, delegate to the convention, died from a heart attack yesterday at 2:15 p.m. Let's have a moment of silent prayer for our comrade.

[A moment of silence was observed.]

May he rest in peace and his family be comforted in this loss.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You for our Commander Chad's charisma and leadership this past year, for the tireless efforts of his staff. We ask Your blessing on him and his family and the outgoing officers and their families.

Help us to remain one, as You are one and Holy. With You to lead us we will be ultimately victorious.

Direct out nation's efforts to free our prisoners of war and have compassion on the families of our comrades still missing in action. Amen.

Commander **Colley**. Retire the colors.

[The colors were retired.]

Commander **Colley**. Ladies and gentlemen, the 64th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is history and we stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.]

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PROCEEDINGS
of the
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
1985 National Convention

SHERATON NEW ORLEANS HOTEL

NEW ORLEANS, LA

JULY 22-25, 1985

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY 1985 NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD AT THE SHERATON NEW ORLEANS HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS, LA, JULY 22-25, 1985

The 1985 National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA, Monday morning, July 22, 1985, and was called to order at 9:03 o'clock a.m. by Adjutant Kit Seal Feighner.

Kit Seal Feighner. Will the national sergeant at arms present the colors.

Will the pages escort the national officers and the convention chairman to the room.

Will the national sergeant at arms escort the past national commanders to the chairs in the front of the room.

Saints. You know who the saints are.

[National Officers escorted.]

Kit Seal Feighner. Would the Arizona department color guard present National Commander, Sally Wilton, and the national colors to the platform.

[National Commander escorted.]

[Presentation of Colors.]

Kit Seal Feighner. We will have the prayer by the National Chaplain.

Mary Ellen Sissman. Almighty God, we ask for your ever present wisdom and guidance, that the officers and members of this disabled American veterans convenes to evaluate the work accomplished this year for our veterans independence.

Be with our commander as she conducts the business that come before this group. We ask that your work here be done harmoniously and with happy hearts.

We ask for those which, for whatever reason, could not be with us this convention be remembered too for their contribution of time, talents, travel and service to fulfill the purpose of our auxiliary. Those members too are special people.

Keep all members and disabled veterans in thy care. We pray. Amen.

[Pledge of Allegiance as given.]

Kit Seal Feighner. Would the national sergeant of arms please present the national convention chairman, Pat Hass, Louisiana.

[Convention Chairman escorted.]

Kit Seal Feighner. Pursuant to the provisions of Articles I and II of the by-laws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and by the authority of the national executive committee, I, Kit Seal Feighner, National Adjutant, hereby pronounce and declare that the 63rd national convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The first meeting to be called at 9 a.m. on July 22nd, 1985, and subsequent sessions to be called as may be required to complete the business of this convention.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the national constitution and by-laws and the ritual of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary as most recently amended.

To all present, take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

And now I present to you your National Commander, Sally Wilton. [Applause.]

Commander WILTON. Thank you very much ladies.

That's because she's short and I'm tall, and I just took my shoes off right now.

It is truly a pleasure for me this morning to welcome all of you to this opening session. I don't know why we've got so many seats in the middle row. That must have been the ones that were out all night last night.

We truly hope that you enjoy the convention, attend the meetings. We'll get our work done as quickly as we can and then go out and have some fun.

At this time I would like to introduce the National Convention Chairman, Patricia Hass. Patricia Patin-Hass.

Mrs. PATIN-HASS. Thank you, Sally.

Commander Sally, national officers, delegates, members and guests, bienvenu, New Orleans. That's French for welcome to New Orleans.

On behalf of the Department of Louisiana and myself, I would like to welcome each and everyone of you to our lovely city. We're so glad you came. I think you will be too. New Orleans is the largest city and chief port in Louisiana. It is founded in 1718 by the brothers Le Moyne and named for the Duke of Orleans, region of France. Its exotic associations range in time from evidence of its French origins to the sounds of Negro jazz, a major cultural contribution and include Mardi Gras, one of the country's best known festivals.

You will not lack for things to do or places to see. We have most everything here you can think of and some you can't or haven't. The French Quarter is No. 1 on a tour, shopping or sightseeing trip. It also offers multitudes of nighttime entertainments.

New Orleans is known as the city that cares for God, but please remember, crime did not forget New Orleans. I don't mean to arm yourself when you go out but just use normal caution.

Other attractions include museums, our newly renovated zoo, riverboat cruises, carriage rides, streetcar rides, racetrack, a tour of the Superdome, which now houses the Louisiana Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Canal Street for shopping, looking or just sightseeing, and St. Louis Cathedral just to name a few.

I have been very fortunate with my committee this year and if it's all right, I would like to introduce my chairman. My co-chairman is Marilyn Seeman. Please stand, Marilyn. [Applause.]

Chairman of the past national commanders dinner, Jackie Florie. [Applause.]

You can hold your applause until I get them all up here.

Forget-me-not luncheon, Marilyn Borlon. She is selling tickets, I believe.

Information, Stella Bell, I guess they are all working.

Publicity, Katherine May; ditty bags, Ella Kelly; and door prizes, Chris Devillisanna.

These chairmen and myself will be wearing these little badges with the clown with the yellow ribbon. If you need any help, look us up. We'll be glad to help you.

We thank you-all again for coming to New Orleans and I hope you will remember this as a pleasant time and a most beneficial convention. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. At this time I would like to introduce our past national commanders.

Freda Frances Jones. Would you please stand, Freda. Catherine Early, Florence Green, Lucille McCarthy, Mildred Taylor, Pauline Wright, Helen Davis, Nelda Wilson, Dorothy Van Hoy, Mary Beth Schults, Thelma Williamson, Florence Valguardsen, Maurine Peterson, Maria Tedrow, Eva B. Rogers, and Florence Daley.

Let's give these ladies a warm welcome. [Applause.]

The first order of business is the adoption of the national convention rules. Printed copies of the convention rules have been furnished to all registered delegates. These rules have been approved by the national executive committee in their session on Saturday afternoon.

The chair will now entertain a motion for adoption of these rules.

Loneita Shoemaker. Madam Commander, Loneita Shoemaker, 1st Junior Vice. I so move.

Commander Wilton. Loneita Shoemaker has made a motion to approve this.

Betty Boyd. Betty Boyd, NEC 18th District.

Commander Wilton. Betty.

Betty Boyd. Betty Boyd, 18th District NEC, seconds the motion.

Commander Wilton. All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed?

[Motion carried.]

Commander Wilton. At this time we will have our credentials report by Liz Cody, our faithful helper every year.

I goofed. Helen Davis, would you please come forward.

Helen Davis. We have attending this national convention 15 ladies who have served as national auxiliary commanders of this Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

There's not time for each of them to greet you individually so it's my honor and privilege to bring greetings from the group today. Each of them have for many years attended conventions to learn, to serve and to enjoy the fellowship of their associates.

From experience, they are all aware and most appreciative of the efforts of the administrative staff in the formulation and execution of plans for a pleasant and productive convention. We wish for them success and enjoyment as the convention proceeds.

Again from experience, we understand the tremendous task that has been performed by the efficient staff of elected officers and the party chairmen, and we are grateful for the job they've done during this year 1984-85. Their efforts will be revealed by the reporting and rewarding that will be done here during the sessions of this convention.

We have the enthusiasm—we have enjoyed the enthusiastic and proud way that our parent organization has treated their successful membership drive. We witness the fantastic celebration of their victory, of reaching their million members. All of this should make us more enthusiastic about our goals and more determined to follow their lead and reach our million members also.

We hope that your friends here will cheer you, what you do will charm you, and bind you to the work of our organization. Our task will never be completed as long as our purpose exists. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. Thank you very much, Helen. We are so pleased so many of you are here at this convention this year. Now, Liz, we will have your report.

Liz Cody. Can you hear me? I'm sure there is no problem there.

National Commander Sally, National Adjutant Kit and national officers and delegates. Get your pencils out and pay close attention because there's an awful lot of auxiliaries that have to report to duty or go back to the office. As of today, July 22nd, 319 units have registered, 28 departments, grand total 347.

Now, for the delegates. 729 delegates, 113 alternates, 191 visitors and a daily total was 1,032.

On the Units, 1,561, departments 28, national officers and chairmen and NEC is 31 and past national commanders 12 for the grand total of 1,632. We've got guests so we had better hurry up.

Now, these are the auxiliaries that have to go back to the office. Arizona 18 for audit; Arizona 20 for audit; Arkansas No. 5, audit and mandates; Connecticut No. 3, audit; Florida No. 9, audit; Department of Louisiana, audit; Department of Maine, audit; Maryland No. 28, audit; Massachusetts 37, audit; Massachusetts 49, audit; Department of Massachusetts, audit; Michigan 95, audit; Department of Mississippi, audit; New Hampshire No. 1, audit; New York 126, audit; New York 145, audit; North Carolina 26, audit; Ohio 34, audit; Ohio 88, audit; Department of Oregon, audit; Rhode Island No. 9, audit; Tennessee No. 38, audit; Tennessee 83, audit and mandates; Department of Tennessee, audit; Texas No. 1, audit; Texas 29, audit; Texas 141, audit; Virginia 27, audit; Department of Washington, audit; West Virginia No. 52, audit; Department of West Virginia, bond; Puerto Rico No. 1, audit.

Ladies, the office is in the Aurora Room on the fourth floor. It's where we registered on that end before, only the floor below. Please take care of these before the next convention. Thank you very much.

Commander Wilton. Thank you, Liz.

At this time we have some very special guests with us and we would like a warm welcome. Let's bring the Marines in.

[Guests escorted.]

Commander Wilton. Just so the Marines don't get a big head, we've got a message for you, Butch. My husband says the Navy cleared the beaches for you, the Army came in afterwards and cleaned up your mess. [Laughter.]

At this time it gives me great pleasure to introduce Mr. Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Director of Services. [Applause.]

Charles Joeckel. Thank you Sally. I was kind of surprised that the Marine—to hear the Marine Corps hymn this morning although Rick Heilman is a Marine, the other three gentlemen I brought with me are jealous that they weren't. [Laughter.]

Commander Wilton, National Adjutant, Kit Seal, national officers and delegates to this great convention. I come here today for two reasons. One, to praise a great national commander of the ladies auxiliary, Sally Wilton; and two, to praise a great organization, an organization that has a lot of pride, a lot of guts and a lot of heart and that's the ladies auxiliary. [Applause.]

Yesterday your national commander gave a rather whopping speech at our opening session and it smacked me in the eyes as well as everyone, I'm sure in this room, but let me say this, that quite often we hear that the parent organization, the DAV, does it all but we know better, don't we?

[Audience responded yes.]

Charles Joeckel. Because without you getting the parent organization off its duff on several occasions, and I refer to such things as taxing disability compensation and our legislative program, if it wasn't for you, we'd be in deep trouble.

And I want to praise your organization for another thing. This year you reached 109,000 members. That's a great achievement. It shouldn't be taken lightly but yesterday I think you laid out a vision for the future. You are looking ahead to an organization that probably next year will exceed 120,000 members. Hell, more than that, Kit says.

Kit Seal Feighner. We're going to do a big drive in September.

Charles Joeckel. There is no reason that the auxiliary can't have a million members like the parent organization. Kit, with her leadership and Sally, hers this year, and people like Lucille McCarthy and the line officers have done a tremendous job.

Innovation by advertising in DAV Magazine for members to encourage the ladies to join the auxiliary. Let me say on behalf of our national service program that we will continue to strive to improve the membership of your organization. Our national service officers will be dedicated to that proposition.

Another innovation took place this year in the national commander's column. Sally Wilton laid out the plan for a new dependency and indemnity compensation program, HR85 HS85 clearly an issue of the ladies auxiliary. Together, working together with the DAV and the ladies auxiliary, while the tough fight is still ahead, I believe we can win it.

Sally yesterday laid out a vision for the future. The future, she says, is in your hands. The future of your organization is really in all of our hands. What we want to make of it, what we want to be, what we want to see enacted, what we want in terms of our organization really rests with each and everyone of us, and what we're willing to do and what we're committed to doing on behalf of our organization.

With those thoughts in mind, I would like to take a couple of minutes to introduce the staff members that I have brought with me. Each one will take a few minutes. It was impossible really to bring all of our staff in Washington. Things have changed and we have a communications staff on board in Washington, D.C., now and every member of the staff today is on duty somewhere in a convention committee, but I brought with me the directors of the various programs that we have in Washington, D.C.

First, the director of our national service program, Art Wilson. [Applause.]

ART WILSON. Thank you, Butch.

[Audience responded good morning.]

ART WILSON. Good morning. Sally, thank you very much for the opportunity to come this morning and Kit, I think it's tremendous to see this great of a showing. I remarked to someone a second ago that you have a large crowd. I think the convention is going to be one of the more successful conventions we ever had; and Pat, I offer my congratulations to you. I think you are doing a great job.

Let me say that I'm glad that Butch was able to recognize that the majority of us that came up on stage this morning were not Marines. [Laughter.]

I just want everybody to make sure that they understand that. I don't have any secret desire, secret desire to be a Marine. I don't know where he got that.

Finally, we're in the majority. It usually doesn't happen in the office. It's usually more Marines than someone else.

I would like to say, though, on behalf of all of our national service officers throughout the country, that we appreciate very much your continued and total support that they receive each and everyday. We know what you do and you do it very well.

You not only are involved in our legislative programs but you are involved in our service program as well, particularly when our field service units visit rural communities, you are there to help. You are there to assist. You are always at open meetings to assist our NSO's and to assist chapters. Without you we couldn't get the job done. I mean that sincerely. It's you that make this whole program tick. We have a lot of very dedicated members but many of them are dedicated because of you, and for that I thank you.

I think that your efforts on behalf of the disabled veterans of this country are just tremendous. And you know people talked that the auxiliary should have a million members like the parent organization. While that may be true, I think your goal this year in reaching 109,000 members is just utterly fantastic. I think you did a great job.

Sure, the comments will be said that you can do better but so can the parent organization, and I congratulate you for the membership strides that you have made this year.

Congratulations to your national staff as well. We work very closely with Kit and Sally and the staff in Cincinnati and we really are thankful for their appreciation and cooperation that we receive daily. As Butch said, our national service officers will continue—will continue to sign members to the DAV auxiliary. We make that a point. We do a lot of official office visits. Those are one of the items that we check very carefully. In some cases it may not be what we want but it's there, the effort is there and the recruitment is ongoing. So having said all of that and offering you our continued support and our continued cooperation from all of our national service officers and staff across the country and particularly our clerical staff, I want to congratulate you for a tremendously successful year and thanks again for your cooperation. [Applause.]

CHARLES JOECKEL. Another great Marine, an individual who has been Director of Legislation for quite some time now. He knows the ins and outs of Capitol Hill, John F. Heilman. Rick. [Applause.]

JOHN HEILMAN. Thank you, Butch and Sally and Kit and ladies of the auxiliary.

One question. This wasn't one of your previous speakers, was it? [Laughter.]

That's your newest member. And to you, Arthur, the reason that the Marines are in the minority is that everyone knows they only take a few good men. [Laughter.]

I want to thank you ladies very, very much for the tremendous support that you've given to my office and to the parent organization this past year.

I can tell you as a matter of fact that if it weren't for your support and the effort that you put into DAV grass roots campaigns, that the most recent and the most significant victory that we had in preserving the tax-exempt status of disability compensation benefits would not have come into fruition. I can tell you that for a fact.

You heard mentioned the other day that there were something like 30,000 letters sent to the White House and to Department of Treasury alone and VA and thousands more to Capitol Hill, the ratio of letters, of those letters that came from auxiliary members far exceeded your numerical strength.

The parent organization is a million members strong, and you ladies right now are slightly more than ten percent of that and you write and you lobby like you are right up there with us, and I want to thank you very much for that.

One other thing. One other thing that I have noted in the correspondence that you send me. When you send me copies of the letters that you send to Capitol Hill, there's one thing about your letters. The letters that I see from the DAV members, on this tax issue, for example, there was a very strong theme in a lot of those letters from the men of disillusionment in terms of what the country—what the Reagan administration was proposing to tax compensation benefits for war time disabled, and there was a message in there I never thought this country would come—I never thought it would come to this, that for the sake of savings that you would, this administration or any administration would renege on the promise to disabled veterans.

Well, in addition to that message I saw another theme in the letters that came from you ladies and that was anger. You got angry and you told them that you were angry, and I like that. I like that. When you write, when you write and you are angry, you let them know because that makes them sit up and take notice, believe me.

Butch mentioned our goal on DIC, a new formula payment based on something other than the current one which is based on rank. Those bills were introduced in Congress this year and in the Senate the prime sponsor was Senator Deacon Seeney from Commander Wilton's home state of Arizona. We did get hearings from the

House Affairs Committee. We made some progress but, as Sally has indicated to you, I heard her indicate yesterday, and she's probably said it on other occasions. This is going to be a long, hard struggle for DIC reform, and the main reason is because we're talking about a substantial amount of dollars. That's the bottom line in Washington when you get down to it, dollars, and we want to change in formula and we want one that's meaningful, and that's going to cost some money. So there's going to be some resistance but we're going to have to work hard and long and we're going to have to have a consensus of support and commitment, not just from ourselves and the DAV and the DAVA but from the other organizations, the other veteran organizations and other organizations such as Gold Star wives.

I've been talking to those folks, and although we have some different ideas on how to go about getting change and perhaps the way we should go, we do have one thing in common and we know there must be a change. There must be a change and that's the message that we have to continually put before the Congress and in particular the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees. We started out this year. Next year is an election year. We all know what that means. Years of people on Capitol Hill are going to be a little bit more attuned to what their constituents have to say, and we'll come out of the shoot in January of '86 with this proposal in the foremost part of our program, and I will be calling on you ladies for support, and I know you will give it to me. And we'll persevere and we'll hang in there and we'll get it eventually. Thank you. [Applause.]

Charles Joeckel. Ron Drach has been in Washington longer than I have and I was born there. [Laughter.]

He is our National Employment Director.

Responsibilities are wide and varied, not just the employment problems among disabled veterans but many other programs come under Ron's purview. The National Employment Director, Ron Drach. [Applause.]

Ronald Drach. Thank you, Commander Sally. Kit.

One thing that Butch and Rick forgot to mention to you. They don't usually tell everybody why they are so fond of coming over to talk to the auxiliary, but see, they too are a member of an auxiliary unit and that auxiliary unit is the Marine Corps, which is an auxiliary of the Navy. [Laugher and applause.]

I think I'm the last—Butch will have the last word. What the heck. I took my shot anyway.

You know, I was sitting back here thinking what to say and what I need to say. One thing I want to talk to you about in a minute but before I do that, we're talking about membership goals and achieving those goals, and certainly you are to be commended that you have reached more than 100,000, but something else that needs to be looked at beyond just the sheer numbers. We're over a million and I think we've got probably around 1,700 or maybe 1,800 registered delegates here as of this morning. You-all have a little bit over 100,000 and your registration is 1,031.

I was at the registration desk yesterday when Holly came over asking for some packets because you had exceeded 1,000, because when you look at proportional activities and representation you are way ahead of us and I think that's something that really is commendable because of the activities that you-all participate in, and to show that kind of support that so many of you come out for, not only the national conventions but for your local activities also. So I think you can be very proud of that.

The other thing that I want to talk to you about. I was very fortunate to address the fall conference of the auxiliary last fall down in Cincinnati, and I asked for support from the auxiliary for a program that's under my jurisdiction, the national journalism contest, which involves the governors committees on employment of the handicapped and high schools in an essay contest.

Two things came out of that meeting, and that I'm very, very happy of. One is that a lot of your unit commanders and department commanders order to help. It was too late last year, but I understood a lot of you are gearing up to do something this year. Probably about mid to late August the departments will be getting a mailing from us regarding that program, and we'll be offering any and all support that we can, but in return we're going to be asking more support from you than we're going to be giving you. So I hope that you will be able to pitch in and help us out.

The other thing that I'm very proud and happy that happened was that you-all approved to donate some money to the program and as such, now for the 1985 was the first year the auxiliary donated $100 for each of the students who represented their respective states, and I think that's going to go a long way toward improving the program and helping participation in the program.

The last thing I want to mention in terms of membership. My wife and I were talking about membership in the auxiliary and, you know, what can we do, to help increase the membership. So we got together and about four weeks ago my wife gave birth to our second junior auxiliary member. [Applause.]

Although I must admit, with all of the other things on my mind, I haven't signed her up yet so I will do that before I leave. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Charles Joeckel. It' s hard for me to pass up the opportunity to say that I'm sure Ron would like to do all he can to recruit future members of this auxiliary. [Laughter.]

Well, the next gentleman is the new kid on the block in Washington but certainly not new either to the DAV or to the auxiliary. Last year Dick Wilson came to the conclusion that we needed a staff in Washington, D.C. for public relations purposes, communications and wide and varied programs that we administer there.

In Cincinnati, Tom Keller served as the Assistant Director of Communications. Recently he was transferred to Washington, D.C. and promoted to National Director of Communications. Please welcome Tom Keller. [Applause.]

Thomas Keller. First of all, I would like to join Art Wilson in saying that we're proud of the United States Air Force, aren't we, Art? [Laughter.]

We have no jealousy about any other branches of the service.

First of all, I would like to say that in the communications department we subscribe for a clipping service which sends us copies of all of the articles in the United States that deal with either the DAV and the auxiliary, and we get about anywhere from 100 to

300 clippings in a day, which is quite substantial for an organization of the size of the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary. But I would point out that about a third of those clippings are generated by the DAV Auxiliary, which is an organization of about one-tenth of the size of the DAV. About another third probably of the material about the DAV's probably generated by auxiliary members who are informing their local newspapers about the DAV's activities.

So I think you ladies are doing a really knock out job in the publicity are and the national communications department is very, very appreciative of the work you're doing and keep it up, and I'm sure you will do even better in the years ahead.

As we talked about the years ahead, I was there for Sally's speech yesterday and as Butch said, it put a heavy emphasis on the future. Sally, I think is to be commended for that. It shows the vitality of the auxiliary; it shows that it's a forward-looking organization, and it shows that it's an organization with a bright, exciting future. I think that's really important, and Sally, thank you very much. Thank you, ladies. [Applause.]

Charles Joeckel. Sally, on behalf of the staff from Washington, may I say that you have our respect and admiration. We've enjoyed certainly working with you this year. It's been our honor and our privilege, believe me.

Ladies, we in Washington stand ready to assist you in any way we can. If you need our help, we're there. Please call on us, and thank you for taking a few minutes of your time this morning. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Thank you so much, gentlemen, for taking your time to come in and see us. We really appreciate it. Please come back whenever you want.

[Guests escorted out of room.]

Commander **Wilton.** We really do appreciate the efforts of these men, and they certainly have assisted me this year, so they are a great bunch of fellows.

This morning we're going to hear the reports of our national officers, and if they are not too long-winded we might get out of here early today. [Laughter and applause.]

I would like to introduce our National Chairman, Mary Ellen Sissman. Mary Ellen.

Kit Seal Feihnher. Chaplain.

Commander **Wilton.** What did I say?

Kit Seal Feihnher. Chairman.

Commander **Wilton.** That's two goofs this morning.

Mary Ellen Sissman. I'm sorry that I got off to such a poor start. I'm glad that you called on me first. I have a problem with knocking knees when I appear before people. I read a quip that when you had the problem of knocking knees, if you would just kneel and pray, that took care of the knocking problem. Well, if she would have put me down at the bottom of the list, it would have taken a crane to get me up because I have a problem getting up once I kneel. [Laughter.]

Commander Sally, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests. It has been an honor serving as the National Chaplain for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary this 1984-85 year.

When I began to evaluate my year, I found fulfilling the duties of this office had brought feelings of warmth and satisifaction when expressing sympathy, bringing comfort and remembering but also a feeling of lingering sadness. If you have read the TAPS column in the DAV Magazine each month, you will note we have lost many of our unit members this past year. I'm sure their presence, contributions and service to our organization and to the disabled veteran will be sadly missed.

I have mailed out 780 sympathy cards, 51 miscellaneous letters and correspondence to national headquarters and answers to letters of inquiries from members. I sent two units suggestions for memorial services as requested.

I would like to clarify one area of requests that I received. I did not send cards to immediate family members of the deceased, as many of you requested me to do. According to the national manual, it states the National Chaplain is to send the sympathy card to the unit in which the member belonged. The unit then may want to give it to the family. Therefore, such requests were not intentionally ignored by your chaplain.

Sally said she don't want us to be long-winded. I'm going to skip going on to unit meetings and so on and so forth.

I feel as a courtesty in my hometown in recognition of this office, I was asked by the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Eureka, Kansas, to give a ten-minute presentation on the veterans and Veterans Day during his church service the Sunday before Veterans Day, a first everyone said.

I was also requested to give the Memorial Day address at the Tomb of the Unknown as part of the local Memorial Day services on our local cemetery. The local DAV commander gave the introduction. This was a first also in our community. A woman had never given the memorial address.

Due to illness in the family from December through April, much to my regret and disappointment, it was necessary for me to decline all travel, visitation invitations, special events invitations and the other socially related to holidays and so on and so forth. Those that know me and know that I like to be where the action is, it was very hard. I regret missing the opportunity to meet more of you who elected me to this office and the opportunity to get to know you better.

I want to thank Kit and the national headquarters staff for all the help given me when needed. I want to thank those that sent me poems, cards and department newsletters.

Last of all, thank you auxiliary members for bestowing on me this privilege of serving in the national family as chaplain. It is an experience I will always cherish. To you-all, God bless.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen Sissman. [Applause.]

Commander **WILTON**. Mary Ellen, that was a very nice report.

National 4th Junior Vice Commander, Shelia Allred.

SHELIA ALLRED. Kit is already kidding me about my accent. I don't think I have a accent. [Laugther.]

National Commander Sally, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, members and guests.

When I was elected national 4th Junior Vice Commander last year, I felt it was a dream come true but never in my dreams could

I have imagined the love, togetherness, concern, dedication and challenges that I have experienced this year. This is truly an organization to be proud of and it's you, the membership, that has reaffirmed my belief in our oranization.

Your reports show that you provided assistance and comfort to those in need with caring, concern, courage and involvement. This warm human concern and friendship can be the one bright spot in an otherwise gray day. It is proof that someone cares.

As I totaled the reports, I looked at all of the hours of work of our members, I could not help but thinking all of the satisfaction you fully received. I'm sure that your lives were enhanced because of your involvement. You know the true meaning of one gift by giving.

The total number of reports received were 1,137 with 1,239,548 number of hours and a combined value of $1,859,291.

To those units reporting no activity, I find it hard to believe that you did not show concern or care for those less fortunate. Perhaps you did not keep records or just take the time to remember as you filled out your report. I hope next year you will take time to list and think of what you've done so we can help thank you for those that you've helped.

I extended the deadline for the community service reports because of poster problems in some areas but still 27 reports were still too late to be considered for judgement. I even received a report the day before I left to come to convention. You know we cannot stress enough to mail these reports on time.

Now it's an honor for me to share with you my travels and activities as National 4th Junior Vice Commander. It has been a year I will always remember.

On returning home after the election and convention in Washington, D.C., my unit hosted a surprise reception in my honor at the chapter home. In September I gave school instructions for the North Carolina Department Officers District Commander Department Chairmen at the headquarters in Raleigh. September the 29th I was special guest at an annual picnic and hoe-down at Chapter 27 in Concord.

In October it was an honor to be the representative in North Carolina for the fall conference in Fayetteville and be given the royal treatment by my own state. Thank you, Candace Cundiff. You were an outstanding commander for North Carolina, we are very proud of you.

Also in October was the national 5th distict meeting held in Macon, Georgia. Georgia is always an outstanding district and in Macon, Georgia, with Past National Commander, Helen Davis, adding her special touch, things are made gracious and very warm for everyone. NEC, Myrtice Vinson, has done a super job for the 5th district. Myrtice always has very organized and informative meetings.

Lucille McCarthy, our National Judge Advocate, was our national representative. I could not say enough about this lady. I could listen to her all this day she astounds me with her wealth of knowledge. We have been very lucky in the 5th district to have her with us.

During the fall conference in Cincinnati, I presented a community service program by writing a skit describing the perfect community service worker. The ladies in North Carolina did a superb job of acting. Thank you, ladies. Also at the conference as community service chairman, I distributed literature and material on lupus disease, compassionate friends, sudden infant death syndrome foundation, and wanted posters for community service work. I also mailed out two letters to the units through headquarters and had one article in the national magazine.

March the 2nd I attended National Commander Sally's testimonial in Phoenix, Arizona. This was a gala event and a great way to honor Sally for her outstanding leadership. Everyone had a great time. Along with Charlene and Jimmy Meeks I was taken on a tour of Phoenix by a friend of Charlene's who resides there.

March the 3rd I attended open house for state and national officers at Unit 20, Glendale. They also had a note burning at that time. I could truly understand now how they received so many national awards. Their hard work is evident. It shows in their work, their community and in the beautiful unit and chapter home.

Also in March I was judge for the patient talent show at the Salisbury VA Medical Center.

In April it was my privilege and honor to be national representative for the national 5th District meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, but this time Myrtice put me to work. She asked me to plan a presentation explaining the auxiliary programs, so I wrote another skit with the department commanders of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, and myself and other auxiliary members starting to the national convention in New Orleans. By mistake we all went through the wrong check point and ended up in the Russian airline zones. [Laughter.]

We had to convince all the Russians that we weren't spies and we had to explain the purpose of the auxiliary programs. They were so convinced that all of the Russian guards defected and went with us to the national convention. [Laughter.]

In May convention assignments began and my first assignment was the Department of Louisiana convention in Monroe. There I got a brief insight of all of the activities that you are enjoying at this convention now. You know women are amazing. For example, Pat Pattin-Hass, Department Commander at the time, expecting in her 8th month, presiding over the department convention and did an excellent job and at the same time was planning activities as a chairman, as chairman of the national convention. Now, this is what I call dedication. [Laughter.]

At this convention I attended my first baby shower given for a department commander at a state convention. I'm very proud of the friends I made in Louisiana and for Louisiana making their quota. It was also good to see and visit with District 8th NEC, Elizabeth Foster. I was so excited about the trip to Louisiana that when Kit called to ask me to go to Alabama I believe I would have walked if I couldn't have got a flight out. Thanks Kit for asking me to go.

Seeing Vernice Eunice again was great and the Department Commander Inex Sims did a great job at proceding. It was an honor to be the guest speaker at the Forget-me-not luncheon. The hospitality luncheon was great. I wish you could see the cheese trays they gave me. I wanted to take it home with me but I couldn't because it was bigger than the plane I flew out of Dotham on. If anyone can tell you you can fly Delta to Dotham, Alabama, you sure can't.

While there, it was my honor to be appointed Lieutenant Colonel Aide-de-Camp in the Alabama Militia. Alabama was a little slow in membership, but they did some brain storming and met quota before the convention was over.

My next assignment in June was the Department of Maryland convention. I was met at the airport by Jeannie Joeckel and invited by the legislative staff to visit and tour the DAV headquarters in Washington, D.C., along with the DAV National 4th Junior Commander, Steve Gaudette and his lovely wife, Sandy. We also had lunch with the legislative staff at the Channel Inn and was driven to Ocean City, Maryland, in the staff car. Talk about a VIP treatment. Sandy and I really enjoyed it.

Pat Demartini, Department Commander of Maryland had a great year. I really saw for myself at this convention that Past National Commander, Chris Maguire, wears many different hats in the Department of Maryland, and she wears them well. Convention Chairman, Wilma Myers and her family made sure Steve, Sandy and myself were never alone and were always entertained. You know, there is something special when you can feel the love that surrounds you.

June also found me in apple country for the state of Washington convention. The gracious Mary Murphy made a very capable department commander. It was my pleasure to renew my friendship and spend some time with District 13 NEC, Irene Quanz. Convention Chairman Ruth Hammer saw to it that I got to soak up some local color by taking me to the Preston wine cellars. We also toured the McNary Locks and Dam.

The last of June found me in North Carolina where I was elected to my sixth term as North Carolina Department Judge Advocate. I was also chairman of the Department of Constitution and By-laws, and we did a complete revision this year. National 1st Junior Vice Commander Loneita Shoemaker was our representative for the convention. Loneita is a great lady and represents our organization well. Everyone in North Carolina loved her.

I attended many unit meetings and hospital parties except when I was called to travel. Serving as advocate treasurer and bingo chairman, worked the Halloween carnival for the children, attended the POW/MIA recognition ceremonies and many other unit and department activities.

Commander Sally, it has been a pleasure serving with you, and I want to commend you for a job beautifully done for our leadership.

I want to personally thank Lucille McCarthy for her advice and guidance that I value so much.

Kit Seal Feighner for being so efficient, Maria, Judy and the staff for being there when needed.

It's been a busy year. A dream come true but you are not a dream. You are real. I have felt your concern, compassion, dedication and above all love for others.

On behalf of those whom you have served, I thank you for being who you are. Thank you for the hours that you've given, the hands you have held and the love you have shared.

There was a popular song a few years back that said in part, a bell is not a bell until you ring it, a song is not a song until you sing it. Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay, love isn't love until you give it away. Each of you are special. You give love in abundance. Thank you for letting me share a little bit of your inner sunshine by being your National 4th Junior Vice Commander and Community Service Chairman. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you very, very much for that wonderful report.

National 3rd Junior Vice Commander, Rose Schilpp. I'm going to count her pages. [Laughter.]

Rose Schilpp. I have got 20. I believe everyone got their wake-up calls this morning except this section right here. I wonder what happened.

National Commander Sally, national officers, national executive committeewomen, past national commanders, delegates and guests.

On August the 30th, 1984, at the national convention in Washington, D.C., I was most honored to have been elected and installed as National 3rd Junior Vice Commander of the greatest organization in the world, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. I would like to share with you some of my Americanism report of my activities during this past year. As our fiscal year comes to a close, it is now time to review all that has been accomplished this past year.

We, as members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, can be proud of all of the work and effort that has gone into our Americanism program this past year. We have grown in numbers this year, so let's keep up the momentum and inspire others in carrying out our Americanism programs this coming year. Let us teach and install Americanism into the hearts and minds of our youth today. They will be our leaders of tomorrow. Let us all strive at all times to become better citizens and dedicate ourselves to an undivided allegiance to our country and its ideals. Honor, courage and heroic deeds are the flowers of freedom. How great it is to be an American and may we never know the taste of not having freedom.

Through the years America's way of life has been shaped by honor, integrity and love for God and country. It is up to each of us to keep that honor intact. May we never forget our brave men and women that fought and died in order that we could continue on as a free nation.

I would like to say thanks for all of you for our fine reports. Sorry some of them were late. Like Shelia's, I received three this past week. I did extend the date a few days due to mail problems also. So next year make sure your unit's report is in the mail and on time in order to get the credit that each of you so deserve.

According to your reports, Freedom's Foundation donations were more than doubled. See what happens when you give a little more than you did the year before. Think what it would be if everyone donated only $5.00, all the units we have.

In another report there were over 23,000 flags presented, this included all sizes from toothpick size on up, so let's keep Old Glory waving and keep on participating in those parades, POW/MIA programs, essay contests, know your American week and keep people become a nationalized citizen and in helping to promote and assisting our disabled veterans and their families.

An honor report, total units 1,899, total reports recorded that were on time to be recorded 1,142. Late reports, it shows on the report 24 but since this was sent in I have 33 all total. Incomplete reports 20, and we had 37 more reports sent in all total this year than last year. We had 23,888 flags presented. Cost of flags, which this is the first year we had our costs on the reports. I know some question it, but I feel as long as units are paying for flags, it should be posted on reports. $35,346.61. A total amount of parades participated in, 2,456; Freedom's Foundation, $7,594.85; POW/MIA participation, 684 units. There were some put on reports, but there were many that have been participated, did not put in an amount of money on it; and we have 407 units, no Americanism reports. Inactive units, 47. Now, some of these stated that they were new units just getting started, which I can understand. And units donating to Statue of Liberty, 42.

But I might say, be sure and put both your unit and number on your reports. Many states have many, many auxiliaries and it's much easier trying to find the number than some of the names. And if you make a copy of your reports, make sure you take both sides. I received several that only had one side and no back side at all, and I received six reports that were very nice reports that should have been in the judging and guess what they didn't put on, their senior membership, and it's too bad because a lot of work had gone into those programs that they had, and this way they will not be in for judging at all. So make sure you go over your reports even if you have to make a copy and maybe do it in pencil, make sure you have everything in that you need, so you can get credit where it so belongs. So there was no unit that had 100 percent. There were some that were very close. So next year, let's all strive for 100 percent next year, and I know all of you are doing something, so let's take credit where credit is due. And I have—I would like to share with you—an essay that was written by a boy in Independence, when I attended their Americanism program, and this is from a 10-year-old. And the title of it is "To Vote, Will It Be My Responsibility or my Privilege", by Michael Pool.

As a citizen of the United States, it is both my right and my responsibility to vote. Throughout American history, there have been people such as Thomas Jefferson, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Susan Anthony who worked and fought to give me and other Americans the right to vote.

As a right secured for me in an effort to make America a more democratic place to live, it then becomes my responsibility to safeguard this right. The right to vote is a freedom that can be lost or impaired if it is not used. People must realize that voting has become a way to give government control to the people. It is my responsibility to make sure that laws are developed with all people in mind, that responsible officials are elected to positions in local, state and federal governments, and that taxes are levied in a manner that is fair to all citizens.

My vote can help people in all of these ways and it can help to secure Abraham Lincoln's wish, America be of the people, by the people and for the people.

It has become much easier for Americans to accept the responsibility to vote, and during the early history of this nation, farmers and frontiersmen were much more isolated from towns. It was hard to know the people and the issues, as well as hard to travel long distances to vote. Today, people vote in their own neighborhoods, the elderly are offered rides and people can use absentee ballots. There really is no excuse for eligible voters to neglect this important responsibility.

When I contribute my knowledge, my opinions, my choices of liability, it makes me feel as if it can make a difference and that I'm just as important as anyone else. Someone once said that without their possibility of choice and without the exercise of choice, a person is just a thing. Exercising my right to vote helps me as a person and helps my country as a democracy. This was written by Michael Pool, 10 years old, Independence, Missouri. He goes to William Southern elementary school.

I think this says a lot. If we would take from this, I'm sure we would never miss a voting day.

Now, on my personal report. After I arrived home in August I think the first thing I did, I went to a picnic. Our annual Chapter No. 2's picnic.

September the 12th through the 20th we had our Missouri Department fall conference in Springfield, Missouri, and as you know, this is our first year as a department, which I'm very proud of but we've had many things, as you all know, that we do have to work out. September the 27th, I presented a plaque on behalf of our unit to my employer, Jean Lutgen. This was in appreciation for the many times during the past years that she has taken her private kindergarten children to the VA Medical Center and the nursing homes to entertain our veterans. Little did I know that I too was honored as being elected National 3rd Junior Vice Commander by my unit and chapter, so I lied to her and she lied to me, but it all came out great and I really appreciated it.

October the 13th I attended our auxiliary's annual fall dinner. October the 31st-November 2nd I attended the national conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. We also had a booth for our Ways and Means at Blue Ridge mall. I also worked that on November the 16th. December the 8th, myself and five of our unit members attended the POW/MIA recognition day in Kansas City, Missouri.

December the 11th, I partied again. Overland Park No. 34 and our unit and chapter family Christmas party where we also worked with the children to have a party for them was December the 14th. On December the 17th I helped with our unit's Christmas party for the patients at the Kansas City VA Hospital Medical Center, and as I always say, since I work I cannot volunteer much, to my dismay, during the day but I say I'm the party girl. When I go at nights I love to go help with their parties.

On February the 13th I attended Queen City No. 10's Americanism program and spoke on Americanism. This is when the children were there for their essay contest, and I might say it really gives you a great feeling to see parents, grandparents, the whole family come out for these. And I feel like that we need many more of these in our communities. I think it is a great program. We should work on this a great deal. And on February 17th, I attended patriotic council dinner and program in Independence, Missouri. This is composed of all veterans organizations in Independence and the proceeds from the dinner each year is used for purchased flags to be put on veterans graves on Memorial Day; and, February the 21st was a great night for me. I was invited as a special guest at a patriotic music festival in Independence, Missouri, at the RLDS auditorium. This was the first for them and they hope to have it an annual affair. Over 1,200 school children participated in the program, 5th grade through senior high. There was much enthusiasm and the feeling of patriotism was really overwhelming.

On March the 8th, this was the weekend that we invited National Commander Sally in. She was ill and couldn't get there until Saturday, but while she wasn't there, I toured the Kansas City VA Center and our Department Commander of Missouri, Virginia Alford, also made the tour with us. We also toured the Liberty Memorial mall in Kansas City, which is a memorial dedicated to World War II veterans; and on March the 9th I attended my unit's Americanism program and was very honored to have our National Commander, Sally Wilton, with us. I know she really wasn't feeling up to par but we certainly enjoyed having you there, Sally.

And on March the 13th I went to the VA Medical Center for St. Patrick's party. March the 23rd, I went to our executive board meeting in Jefferson City and were happy to have Lucille McCarthy there and was she helpful because we were just getting our—trying to complete our constitution and by-laws, so we appreciate having you there, Lucille. Very helpful.

April the 13th, we had our annual spring dinner again; and, on May the 3rd through the 5th I attended Minnesota's convention in Winnona as national rep and also was installing officer for the new officers, and I might say when you go in there, Sharon Cramer just really did a beautiful job. I got a tour of the city before we went to the motel. Of course, it was kind of an error but anyhow, they are most gracious people. They are doing a great job there, and I really enjoyed my visit with them.

On May the 9th I presented a United States flag to Boy Scout Troop 341 and nine of our unit's members participated in the presentation; and, on May the 19th I was invited to Kansas City, Kansas, Memorial Unit No. 1's dinner and installation and assisted there as conductress in the installations. June the 7th to 9th, again I attended Illinois Department's convention in Peoria as the national representative, and thank you for all of the great hospitality both Minnesota and Illinois gave to me. It's kind of hard going back home because Jim just refuses to do all of this when I get back, so I have to get back to the grind of things.

On June the 14th to the 16th I attended the Missouri Department convention in Jefferson City. We were very happy to have National Adjutant Kit as our national representative, and I was also very happy to assist her in the installing of our new department officers.

I have sent out five American packets which I had on hand, which some had written and requested. I sent out two national bulletins and one magazine article and approximately 17 letters and I had 11 long-distance calls. I attended all of my unit meetings but two. One unit meeting was held on the same night as our national fall conference. I do work nursing home bingo one Sunday every fourth Sunday every month and there again, I feel like many of us can touch many veterans by going to our nursing homes. They certainly appreciate it.

And of course I keep quite busy, and I do thank everyone for sending the Americanism material that I received in the mail. It has been a great help and I did appreciate it.

And it certainly has been my honor and privilege to have served as National 3rd Junior Vice Commander this past Year, and the many kindnesses and friendships that have helped making it complete my year. I thank each of you for having given me the opportunity to do so. Yes, together we really do make a difference. So I ask all of you to continue on with your Americanism programs and I think patriotism is on a high, so let's never take a chance at letting it die. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you, Rose.

National 2nd Junior Vice Commander, Katherine Pearson.

Katherine Pearson. National Commander Sally, officers, chairmen, directors, past national commanders, national executive committeewomen and delegates.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the National 2nd Junior Vice Commander of the disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for the 1984–1985 term. I deem it a very special honor to have been elected and installed at the 1984 national convention held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C., and to have had the opportunity to serve on the executive board at the meetings following the national convention, national fall conference and just prior to this opening session of our convention.

Activities that I had experienced this year as 2nd Junior Vice certainly have been very rewarding to me by meeting disabled American Veterans and disabled American Veterans Auxiliary members from coast to coast as a national representative at state conventions of Oregon, New Jersey, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and at the state conference in Montana.

I also attended Minnesota state convention and the Minnesota state fall conference as the state treasurer. I attended the National 14th District mid-year meeting held at Fargo, North Dakota. Though each state has its own unique way of carrying out the projects and programs of the disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, they have always been in the best interest of the veterans and the veterans' families in their respective area.

It is most gratifying to know of this concern that so many members have in fulfilling our commitment as an auxiliary. The unit and state officers are to be congratulated for their leadership and the chairmen for their guidance and the members for their participation.

The national fall conference plays a very important part in the programming of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary activities. It is a learning experience. It gives the national chairman and the directors an opportunity to present their year's program and goals and updating the auxiliary services.

Serving as the National 2nd Junior Vice I was afforded the privilege of serving as the national legislative chairman. Though the auxiliary does not initiate the legislative goals, we do participate and we do play an important part in the Disabled American Veterans legislative process by contacting the legislators of the DAV message. This year there were 1,150 units reporting on legislative activities. Thanks to each member who participated, together we made the difference.

Activities that I was present at that involved a concern for veterans and veterans families include the legislative seminar at Owatonna, Minnesota. Co-chairing the session was G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, who was the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and a member of that committee, a representative of my own state, Tim Penny.

A seminar on legislative and membership held at the 14th District meeting in Fargo, North Dakota, that was conducted by our DAV National Service Director, John Heilman, and for the National Membership Director, John Charlton. We had another seminar by the boys from National Service Officers from Fort Snelling.

I attended several presentations on the veterans affairs at Minnesota House and Senate committees and at the sub-committee hearings on POWs in Washington, D.C. I also contacted senators and representatives during each of my trips to DC and visited the DAV national service headquarters there.

It was an enjoyable time at National Commander Sally Wilton's testimonial at Phoenix, Arizona. Each one of us received a straw hat and, Sally, I wear that straw hat every time I go to Duck Lake. You wear yours when you come to.

The following day after Sally's testimonial, we were guests at the Glendale Chapter and Auxiliary at their chapter home, a place that they can be very proud of.

Travels in my own state of Minnesota include four membership meetings, five unit installations, monthly bingo parties at St. Peter's State Hospital and at the Minnesota Security Hospital. Workshops of the Minnesota Regional Volunteer Council, which I'm a member of. I traveled to Easton and to Mapleton, two towns of ours, for Veterans Day ceremonials.

I attended the testimonial for our department DAV commander in St. Paul and for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary commander at Bemidji. I also went to the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Park at Cloquet, Minnesota; Memorial Day services at Fort Snelling and was honored at a recognition dinner for volunteers at the Mankato's chapter. This year I am serving as the adjutant and treasurer of my own unit, and I have been appointed again this year to be the auxiliary chairman Forget-me-not days.

DAVA members are wonderful wherever I traveled doing the extras that they have done for me and made me feel special, and when arriving with a lovely greeting and a smile even though they had to wait at the airport two or three hours when my planes were late, taking me shopping for new luggage when my luggage was damaged by the airline. And each place I went had a special entertainment and this was the fun time of our visit, putting on style shows by past commanders that dressed as they did during the time of a special event in their life. One of the models could even wear her navy uniform, looking very charming but I won't tell you what they said about her honeymoon. [Laughter.]

Another group of past department commanders took time out to reflect on their term in office, and this was so very interesting. Then there was the paddle boat ride on the Mississippi, the stroll on the boardwalk, the many tours of the areas of which I visited, wading in the ocean and picking up driftwood, watching the Stone Whale spout off and it really did. It doesn't do it all the time. We had to wait for a little while but it came through for us.

I had a side tour with many of the delegates at Atlantic City and, of course, I made my usual contribution. Experiences have been many and each one so memorable. I really appreciated all of the courtesies extended to me and to my husband when he went with me.

Yes, it was most rewarding year. Thanks to each of you for this very special year for me. Thank you for the assistance along the way, Kit, Maria, Lucille and the staff at national headquarters. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander WILTON. Thank you, Katherine.

The 1st Junior Vice Commander, Loneita Shoemaker.

LONEITA SHOEMAKER. National Commander Sally, national officers, past national commanders, members and guests.

Please be aware of a deep personal warmth that I have in serving the Disabled American Veterans and the honor that you gave me in electing me as the 1st National Junior Vice Commander and membership chairman. It's been a privilege to share a part of this year's responsibility for the growth. A most rewarding aspect of my assignment as national membership chairman has been observing the steady growth of many departments. As of June the 30th, 1985, the members of the auxiliary is now 109,794. We are 2,025 over quota. [Applause.]

Thirty-six departments and 14 districts reached their quota. Now, isn't that great? [Applause.]

I want to thank each of you for the time, the effort and the many hours that you have put in toward securing new members. A person usually has two reasons for doing a thing. One that sounds good and a real one. You did the real one.

As we go through life, experience teaches us to recognize people, places and events that we know we will cherish always. I would like to share with you some of these special times this year.

First of all, the 1984 national convention in Washington, D.C. What a nice place to be consumed by American history, past and present. It was most informative, educational and a great sharing experience for me.

The fall conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, was the stage for committee chairmen to present their auxiliary programs. Each chairman put much work into the planning of the programs that can be of help to you in your unit and the department. Extra incentives were offered in the membership program. We will hear the results and know of the winners in this convention.

Cold blizzard like winds greeted our arrival in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for the winter conference. Tuscaloosa is better known for being the home of the University of Alabama campus and the football coach, the late Paul "Bear" Bryant than for a bitter winter. Our memories of the time spent with Alabama Department Commander, Inez Sims, and her adjutant, Bernice Eunice, and the members in the department will remain keen. I applaud you for the tremendous work that you do in Alabama.

In February I attended a special salute for some very deserving people, our hospitalized veterans.

March was indeed a busy but rewarding month for me. Phoenix, Arizona, was the site of a testimonial dinner honoring our National Commander, Sally Wilton. I know the recall of this great lady and good friend will be total and very lasting. I envy the views of the beautiful scenery the delegates from Arizona have everyday, and they are free.

Still in March, a testimonial dinner for DAV National Commander, Chad Colley, in Little Rock. Talk about class. We had National Commander Chad Colley, many wonderful out-of-state people and a dear person, Auxiliary National Adjutant, L. Kit Seal Feighner.

Kit, this is long. I will tell you a little known story about Kit now. As a very small girl, she would visit the local grocery store that had the familiar glass candy counter, and it was always near the register. She would peer at the goodies and say, Mrs. Clark, I would like about 25 cents worth of the little chocolate boy bunnies. [Laughter.]

Oh, Kit, Mrs. Clark would say, there's really no difference between the girl bunnies and the boy bunnies. Kit would look her right straight in the eye and she would say, a boy chocolate bunny has just about that much more [indicating] chocolate and I want it. [Laughter and applause.]

As all of you know, Kit knew then and she still knows exactly what she wants. [Laughter.]

I had the distinct honor to represent the auxiliary at a special POW/MIA program in April. We're making headway, but much is still needed to be done to get to some of the answers.

Along with attending all local unit meetings and the Department of Arkansas' meetings, I had the pleasure of attending state conventions in Vermont, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

The first was in Vermont, under the leadership of a gracious lady, Beverly Cleveland. I visited the VA Medical Center in White River Junction with Commander Cleveland and VAVS representative, Claudia Roy, a beautiful sight and wonderful people. I was very impressed by the attendance of representatives from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island at the Vermont convention. They really work together well.

Next was my own convention in Arkansas. I served as department adjutant to a dear friend, Commander Edna Blocksom. We had as our guest, National Commander, Sally Wilton, and 20th District Executive Chairwoman, Charlotte George. They were a delight to have as guests. A special place remains in my heart for the members in my home state Arkansas, members who worked tirelessly and have supported me for many years. To you I say thank you for everything.

Wisconsin was the next convention I attended. Wisconsin is known for the land of lakes, cheese, sausage, a special person, Senior Vice Commander, Betty Wimmer. She was away visiting at another state as the national representative. However, her department commander, Carman Marsh, took me under her wing and we made it through the convention great. This was a well organized and a productive convention.

The department convention in Kentucky was well planned and the result of hard work done by people who is a credit to their state. Great leaders like Shirley Caudill and her adjutant, Jean Howard. The quantity and the quality of members in this department shows how they can get things done right. They are super.

I had the pleasure of working and visiting with 7th District National Executive Committeewoman, Mary Patterson, at this convention.

North Carolina was my last convention. This was a busy and fun convention shared with National 4th Junior Vice Commander, Shelia Allred, the 5th District National Executive Committeewoman, Myrtice Vinson, and a gracious, capable Department Commander, Pansy Cundiff her adjutant, Alice Poteet, her other officers and the members did a tremendous job. One thing I think that impressed me the most in North Carolina was the participation of the junior members. Keep up the good work North Carolina.

I suppose the many friends that we make on each trip, the fellowship we share, bound together by one common thread, helping the veteran, his dependents and survivors, are the real unforgettable memories. The accomplishments of the Disabled American Veterans are not the result of luck or accidental fortunes but of hard work. You took the time from your family and your friends to engage in volunteer service to your fellow man for only one reason, to fan the flames of love in your heart for that sense of accomplishment only volunteerism can give.

Commander Sally, you have been a great leader. I have enjoyed serving with you.

To National Judge Advocate, Lucille McCarthy, a special thanks for always being there when I need you and giving me the right answers; and to National Adjutant, Kit Seal Feighner, and her capable staff. Thank you for the many extra things you do for all of us.

Kit, the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra and that is you, extraordinary. Thank all of you for making his a wonderful year as your National 1st Junior Vice Commander. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. Thank you very much for that little story. I think it was time to move around and laugh a little bit.

National Senior Vice Commander, Betty Wimmer.

Betty Wimmer. National Commander Sally, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and friends.

I stand before you with something I knew was going to happen eventually. I knew it was evident that I was not going to have a report this year, so I figured everything else was going to sail along fine but the impossible and something I knew was going to happen. I give you this as a witness. Heavy baggage. [Laughter.]

That was my last trip home from Delaware. My husband always tells me, remember, these are disabled veterans. Don't make them any more disabled. Please leave some of your things at home. [Laughter.]

But there's a reason that I tell you this because I guess really if the Republic Airlines knew what I was bringing back in my heart from all of the trips that I had going and attended conventions this past year, they certainly would have charged me double for my freight.

This year as your National Senior Vice Commander has again deepened my dedication to this fine organization and to the people who comprise our membership. For the honors that you have bestowed upon me, my deep and abiding thanks. It is my sincere hope that I have served you in the office with dignity and with the verve and energy the office demands. I will always, always pledge to you my energy, my good humor and my deep sincerity.

Although I would like to go into great detail telling you of my many experiences during this past year, I realize that it's not possible for me to do because of all of the businesses that we have before us during these days together. But I was thinking about the first time I stood before you. The year was 1980 and at that time I told you that I was not an "I" person, that I am a "we" person and together we have made it happen and together we have seen many successful conventions.

In November I was fortunate to attend the handicapped poster presentation in Illinois. National Commander Sally, I'm sorry that you were ill at that time but 10 minutes before they discovered that you weren't going to come and I tried and was—believe me, it was an honor to try and fill your chair and your shoes. It was another very beautiful event with each poster being more outstanding than the previous.

At the national fall conference in Cincinnati, our program chairman presented their programs for the coming year, and we came home with many new ideas and plans for our units and for our departments. Once again, the exchange of ideas and programs have been invaluable to all of us. Together does make the difference and this range out loud and clear to all of those attending the conference.

In January I was privileged to attend the SEC meeting in California and a testimonial dinner for the two department commanders. Their officers presented at this time very informative reports of their activities, and there was an outstanding legislation campaign at that time with on-the-spot cards being sent and all members became involved. I even got my pen out and wrote a few myself.

March found me ready to travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the 10th District, the first 10th District NEC meeting. Unfortunately, my mother was very seriously ill and I was not able to attend, but I want to thank Addie personally for understanding and for caring because of the situation.

The end of March I attended the 12th District NEC meeting in Decatur, Illinois. My mother was still very seriously ill but doggone, that word together popped up again and I realized how serious and how important together means because if it hadn't been for the members of my unit and my chapter who paid daily visits to my mother, I would not have been able to attend. And there at this conference I witnessed the reports of the department officers of Illinois and Wisconsin and felt that new and interesting programs would be added to each of their states this year, encouraging young people to become involved was the theme of the event.

It was an honor for me to participate in a very special program in April honoring our National Commander, Chad Colley. The site of the reception and dinner was Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Large painted eagles decorated the walls and the words, fly high, echoed our deepest sentiments regarding the leader of this great organization.

May found me back in Illinois again attending the testimonial dinners for the department commanders of the Disabled American Veterans and the auxiliary. They were both beautiful events honoring two very deserving members.

Department conventions were the highlight of my year. The first of May I was in Bangor, Maine, and for a minute I thought I was in Canada as I was driven to the hotel in an Austin cab, and I really felt important. Their programs were interesting and all geared to keep the name of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary before the public.

Two weeks later I was in Parkersburg, West Virginia, a very lovely, unique city among the trees. I was pleased to be a part of the audience and witness the dedication of their new colors. The ladies of West Virginia extended gracious hospitality, good friendship and sharing ideas made me feel right at home.

Next I attended the Department of Oklahoma's convention in Elk City, another beautiful part of this great country of ours. This being the Will Rogers state, they really did everything up big. At this convention the junior members definitely were active participants in the programs of the convention. I thoroughly enjoyed a dinner in my honor at Tinker air force base. It was there that more meaningful friendships again were developed.

The next week I was in Columbus, Ohio, the home state of our national headquarters and the capital of Ohio. This convention was well planned and really very, very interesting. The juniors did another outstanding job and made everyone so very proud of them. At this convention I, along with the delegates and other guests, witnessed a Vietnam wife being installed with her mother as department commander. It shows that we are a family organization.

Last, but not least, was the department convention of Delaware held in Claymont, which is a sister city of Wilmington, the palatial estate grounds of the DuPonts, and the palatial estate grounds of the Disabled American Veterans and the auxiliary.

National 3rd Junior Vice Commander, H.A. Geiger, and I were special guests and toured the Wilmington VA Medical Center and the VA regional office. The reflections of that day make me so very proud of the opportunity to serve and in someway be a part of helping others.

Although Delaware is a young state, as far as the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, they are trying very hard to learn and to participate intellectually in all of our programs. I was happy again to be there for the dedication of their new colors.

I began this year by saying that you are the most important person in the auxiliary, and I found the end of the year I would have to say the very same thing. To each and every one of you that I came in contact with, I can only say that you are the greatest and that I'm happy that we share the same love in this organization.

Commander Sally, it's been a pleasure serving with you and the other officers, and I want to commend you for a job beautifully done this year because through your leadership I believe we have shown it can be done.

I want to thank you Maria, Lucille, Kit, July and in essence the entire staff of being there when I needed you. Fantastic is the word that best describes all of them. Fantastic also describes my feelings for each of you attending this convention. I salute you, everyone in this room and I applaud you. I love you, for we have shared a year of success and I believe you know that it's thanks to you.

It has been a privilege to serve as your National Senior Vice Commander, and I feel that hats should go off to every member of our auxiliary because you deserve a standing ovation because of the privileged people who belong, and I know that you will agree with me that I say that each one of us share each others love. God loves you and so do I. Thank you. [Applause.]

At this time I would hope that you would join with me in a warm, a very warm welcome for the purposes of her national report. Sally Wilton. Would you please stand. [Standing ovation and applause.]

Commander WILTON. Thank you very much. Betty, thank you for that beautiful report and Loneita, I'm glad you told that story because I have a favorite story that I would like to share with you.

I've always been a great believer in the cooperation between the DAV and auxiliary and this little story shows you, I quess, what happens when you do not cooperate. Some of you have heard this, so please bear with me.

The newlyweds were on their way back to the hotel and they got up to the room and they had their champagne toast and were getting ready for bed and the groom said to his little bride, take my pants and try them on and she said, those won't fit me and he said, try them on anyway, and he said, oh, come on. She said, those aren't going to fit me and he said, put them on. So she put his pants on, wrapped them around—and you be quiet, Kit [laughter] and she said, I told you these would not fit me and he said, yeah, and don't you forget that. [Laughter and applause.]

So his little bride was a very sharp, young lady and she took his pants off and took her panties off and tossed them over to him and she said, try these on. And he said, I can't get into them and she said, try them on anyway. You made me try yours on. Try them on. So he got her panties part way up on his leg and he said, I can't get into these and she said, yeah, I know and don't you ever forget that either. [Laugther and applause.]

National officers, past national commanders and members of the DAV Auxiliary and guests. If I could use just one word to describe my year as national commander, I would choose the word happy. It has been a very happy year for me and my family. And you have made it so by your hospitality, your gifts and the most precious gift of all, your friendship.

After traveling throughout this great country of ours, I have made some observations concerning our auxiliary that I would like to share with you. These observations concern what our auxiliary has been in the past, what it is today and hopes for the future of this great organization. Some of my observations do not make me happy or proud of our auxiliary. We are not the petty issues that seem to creep in some of the units and departments at various times. These petty issues can split units or departments so badly they cannot function and cannot carry out the purpose of our organization. The DAV Auxiliary is not the politics that are going on in some units in some departments. When an officer becomes so political that they no longer feel they are there to serve the membership, but to build up the ego or power of certain individuals or groups, they are forgetting the purpose of this great organization. [Applause.]

In the past, our auxiliary has been a great organization. Women working together in a common cause to aid and assist all disabled veterans and their families. We've had leaders who have laid the foundation for us to build upon and follow. We have been a changing organization and we must continue to change if we are to grow and maintain the progress we have made.

At the present time I feel we are the greatest veterans auxiliary in this country. [Applause.]

This year I spoke to the DAV National Executive Committee in Washington, D.C. I told the committee how proud I am of you and all the work you do on legislation. I also told them I was not happy with our membership. I thanked them for the help they have given us, and I also told them it is time for the auxiliary to stand up on our own two feet and that we are perfectly capable of getting the job done. It's going to be a lot of hard work but I know we can do it.

I also told the national executive committee that our auxiliary is in a transition period. The DAV has already made that transition. They have been very fortunate in the leadership of men like Dennis Joyner, Chad Colley, Al Linden and on down the line. We have some problems in that area. They are not insurmountable. It is no different when Kit and many of you sitting out here in the audience came into the auxiliary. Kit and myself. I don't want Kit to be the only older one in there.

Kit Seal Feighner. And Lucille.

Commander Wilton. And Lucille.

But we have to face the fact. The majority of our auxiliary work is being done by our World War II auxiliary members and our transition must be a two-way street. We must accept our younger members and they must accept us. Many of our young women are in the labor force. Some because of the economy and they have no choice, others because they are very talented young women and they have a great deal to offer this country of ours. Many of our young women have children and need the love and care of a devoted mother and some of our young women are working mothers who have little time for outside activities.

Another top priority which affects our leadership is the fact that we are married to a disabled veteran and my disabled veteran comes first. [Applause.]

And I am sure that 99.99 percent of the ladies sitting in this audience share my feelings.

So what lies ahead for the future of our auxiliary? I personally have no fears for the future of our DAV Auxiliary. I have seen women, both younger and older, who are devoted members of the auxiliary. Our leaders today are better informed and know how important it is to get needed information to our entire membership. As long as we continue to keep the purpose of the DAV Auxiliary in front of us at all times, we will continue to be the greatest auxiliary in this country, and my hat's off to each and everyone of you. You have made it so and together we did and will continue to make a difference.

Now, I have listed in my report all of my national travels for the year, but when I started to write my report, I felt to give you a complete report I would have to go down through the months. But after nine handwritten pages of reports, and I had not even gotten to the state conventions, which were so terrific, I decided huh-uh, this is not going to work. So I decided I would go about it another way. I have listed all of my national activities in my report. My state and my unit knows that my priorities this year was my national job. So I'm going to briefly run over these national activities and speak on just a few of the truly outstanding happenings that occurred to me this year. I have not listed any of these in more important than any other one but you-all have to know there were some great things that went on this year.

In September I was a speaker at a building dedication in Scottsdale, Arizona, and then I flew back into Washington, D.C. for a briefing for the DAV national officers. This meeting, by the way, was very informative, and let me tell you, the DAV staff lets their officers know what's going on, what they can expect, what they are supposed to do, and what they are not supposed to do, and it really was very, very helpful to me.

I attended the fall conference in Grayling, Michigan, and the one comment I want to make here is that this was a truly, truly great group of past department commanders at this meeting who was serving the purpose the past department commanders should be, to advise and to help wherever they could. They did a terrific job. And by the way, I think there were 20 or 21 past department commanders at that meeting.

In October I attended Ohio's fall conference, and I saw a group of very young ladies heading the department, and they are leading the way for our younger people and they did a very good job. This was a very large meeting.

I was the speaker at Unit 2 in Tucson, Arizona, and I am bringing this in because I think this was one of the most rewarding things that I did all year. This happened to be a unit who had very few leaders come into their unit to speak to them, and they had many new people in this unit that had been greatly misinformed about a number of things, and they also were so extremely eager to hear and accept the help that myself and a National Executive Committeewoman, Betty Boyd, gave to them. And they loved us so much they asked us to come back again so I guess we did okay.

I attended the department visitation at the VAMC in Phoenix, Arizona, and a week later I was back there when John Charlton came into town to present our hospital with the George Seal award for the outstanding auxiliary member last year, our own Lee Sells.

And then I flew to the national VAVS in Cincinnati. This was my first VAVS national meeting and I learned a great deal. I am going to try very hard to go it again next year when it's going to be in Reno and not for gambling all the time either. You know how I love that.

I stayed in Cincinnati for the beginning of our and completion of our own national fall conference, and I truly want to thank all of my officers and chairmen because I felt it was an outstanding conference because of you.

I attended two Veterans Day parades, one in Phoenix, Arizona, and one in Glendale, Arizona, but I want to tell you I really had some fun. I decided I was going to ride down with the kids, our junior auxiliary on our float, which I did. It was early in the morning because we were quite far out from the downtown area, and we about froze our fannies off, but we did have fun with these kids. They were great; and also when we got down to the parade area, the Vietnam veterans had their float and their people there and I watched very carefully and I saw no one go over to speak to the Vietnam veterans so I went over. They also had their wives there and it was very enjoyable. These young men and women are doing a great job and they are going to continue to do so, and I finally pushed one of our DAV members over and I said, hey, our Vietnam veterans are here. Go talk to them.

I attended the fall conference in Springfield, Oregon, and you known how beautiful that country is. I've been up there several times and I love it. It was a good conference.

I attended a workshop in Phoenix, Arizona. In December the outstanding event was a visitation to the Carville Hospital in Louisiana, and I'm very proud to say to you that we are going to have a delighful little nun, and I say little because she is a little lady, and she's going to speak to us this week and I know you are going to enjoy it too; and at that time I also made a gift from all of us to this hospital for a washer and dryer for the patients to use.

I attended the department visitation in Sun City, Arizona, and our own children's Christmas party in Phoenix, Arizona.

In January I attended the paramedics honor presentation held at my chapter each year, and these wards are given to two outstanding paramedics and they are nominated by their own captain in the police department. You know, we have to call upon these people a number of times every year at our bingos and all of these things in our hall, and this is a very, very good thing that our chapter does.

Well, the highlights have to be in January, the inaugural festivities. I can't say enough about these. They were all terrific and you know how cold it was in Washington, D.C. But I want to tell you something, the DAV staff had everything so well organized I didn't even notice it was that cold until I went in to eat lunch and the wind was blowing the mist across the river. It was cold.

Everyone in the DAV and Kit, I especially want to thank you and Jack for your love and care of my husband because I was a little concerned about him in that very cold weather, but everyone was so great to Ray that I truly could sit back and enjoy old blue eyes, look at the President and visit with all of the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, and I was so proud when I found out that two Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from my own chapter were in attendance. One of them I know very well. He is a World War II veteran and he comes to many of our activities and you know who he brought with him? His little granddaughter, and it was just terrific because every place we went, we went to all of the veterans activities this year and he had his little grandaughter with him all the time and boy, if you didn't think she learned a lot about Americanism, our great heritage and how important her daddy was to this country of ours—her granddaddy. It truly was great. I don't know what else to tell you about this but it's once in a four-year time, and it was a tremendous thing for my husband and I to be able to attend this and represent you at this great event, and we did get to see Nancy and Ronnie. They came to the Veterans Ball and, in fact, we got up very close to them and Nancy still has that look in her eye. I think that's what makes the President rule. [Laughter.]

But it truly was great and I don't know what else to say about it. It just was truly terrific.

In February my unit has a sweetheart luncheon and at that time we honor all of our older ladies and our Gold Star mothers, and by older ladies I mean older ladies than me. Nobody is old unless they are older than I am and then they are getting a little older, but these truly are the ladies who can no longer drive. They very seldom are ever able to get to our meetings and my unit makes certain that these ladies are here, any of them who wish to come, and I think that's very important because one day you and I are going to be in that place.

I was asked to speak at an Americanism program at Unit 4 in Tucson, Arizona. And then I made my official visit to Boston. I really am a history bug and we toured the City Hall, the State House and Senator Harrell was there and took us into the chambers that the Senate uses, and he told us many of the historical facts about this hall itself and all of the figures encircling the hall and then, of course, the ladies chose the next day to take me on tour, and that was the day it rained, but we had a great tour anyway. I truly enjoyed that.

Many of you joined with me and many other people to attend the DAV legislative day in Washington, D.C., and it made me so proud that that room was packed to capacity and overflowing as National Commander Colley presented a spine tingling speech to those people. When he finished they knew who we were and they knew why we were there. And they didn't have to ask National Commander Colley why he thought we were so special. They knew.

In March was my own testimonial dinner held in Phoenix, and I want to give a very special thanks to my unit. I happen to be one of these people that are pretty down to earth and I didn't want anything with a lot of political people there speaking and a lot of fancy doodads going on. I wanted everybody who came to that testimonial dinner to have a good time, and I haven't heard one person who said they didn't have. We had a number of our national people there, Commander Colley, and Den Lowe, and Kay, Butch, Kit and Jack, Maria, and we had people from all over the country. I even got a letter from a senator telling me that he was sorry he couldn't attend. I'm not going to tell him this but I'm going to tell you this, he wasn't even invited. [Laughter.]

That was my chapter's doing. He really was not invited. But we had a good, old, western hoe-down time, and I hope that all of you who were there found out what Arizona hospitality is all about.

You saw the Mexican heritage of our country in Arizona with our school children, high school and grade school kids who danced and they represented every state in our neighbor state—or nation of Mexico. They really are terrific. We had a terrific band, and Kit and Jack couldn't walk the next day. I don't know what they did after they left us. They may have danced all night.

Kit Seal Feighner. It was our boots.

Commander Wilton. It was their boots, okay.

I truly want to thank National Executive Committeewoman, Betty Boyd, who chaired this event and all the girls in my unit who did an outstanding job. I didn't have to do a thing. I didn't have to worry about a thing except to be there, and it was great.

The next day I also made the department visitation at Unit 20 and many of our national people stayed over to attend this event, and it was a delight. I've known many people in this unit and chapter from their beginning, from a small chapter and unit who met wherever they could to the place they are now with a mortgage burning ceremony with one of the most beautiful halls in the country. I have never been in a more beautiful one.

And then I went into Kansas City, Missouri. Rose did mention this but I want to say this. I attended that evening one of the most outstanding Americanism programs that I have ever seen and Rose was chairman of that program that night. It was an outstanding event and all of you from Kansas City can be very proud, and I know you know that I enjoyed my visit there.

I flew into the 50th anniversary in Alliance, Ohio, and truly enjoyed this. The Ohio hospitality is great, and it was freezing weather, and Mary Beth is a terrific cook but I still froze to death. I did enjoy it very much and this is where I got a setback with a little bug I had picked up on the weekend of my testimonial, and I truly was sorry that I could not be with Commander Colley and his family and stayed for his dinner. I know it was great but I was in the hospital that weekend. I was very, very happy when Kit called and when the flowers came then I thought oh, boy, my family is really being thoughtful today. They weren't from my family. They were from Kit and the staff and my DAV family and I—and it truly gave me a big pick up because I was down that day.

In April I installed Unit 1 in Phoenix. And I flew into the presentation made at the Statue of Liberty by Commander Colley and that was a cold drizzly day but boy, the New York people really turned out. I was very proud to know that our national DAV made this presentation of a million dollars and Kit and Maria and I got to ride on the plane with Tom Daney and that million dollars. This money was for one purpose or is for one purpose and one purpose only, to make the Statue of Liberty accessible to all disabled people, and I think that's the greatest thing we could do. [Applause.]

From New York I flew over the city to Maryland to a very, very nice weekend and then flew back into Cincinnati for the national finance committee meeting.

Later in that same week I flew into Florida for their Tallahassee Days, and let me tell you, I wish all states in the union would take their people down to their capital building and meet with their senators and representatives face to face and the Florida legislators know the DAV there, I will tell you. They visited every representative and senator in that building and they were there to meet the DAV and auxiliary.

At the end of that month it was time for state conventions to start and I was in Fargo, North Dakota, with Commander Colley. I attended 11 state conventions, three in the last ten days of my convention period, which meant I was out for about 12 weeks and ended up with three conventions in ten days. They were all great. The hospitality was truly outstanding. You-all made me feel like the queen I felt all year this year. It really has been great.

I am going to just briefly go through the state conventions, but please know that I love you for your wonderful hospitality and making my year so great.

I attended and installed Fargo, North Dakota, installation. The following week I flew into the President's Committee for the Handicapped in Washington, D.C., and then back into my own state convention; Colorado's convention; Nevada's convention and was honored to install their officers; flew back into Cincinnati for the educational loan fund meeting; into the Arkansas convention and I did make Arkansas. We had a great time and my husband, I guess, I can now call him a Razorback because he was like this (indicating) when they presented him with their hog hats. It was great.

I installed Sun City Unit 24 in Sun City, also the Arkansas officers. In June I was in Kansas for their convention and installed their officers, and then I went into California, which was a very large convention. They had a beautiful convention. Their hospitality was just like the small convention in Nevada where there were 17 people present. It didn't make any difference how big or how small. They were all great.

Georgia convention, and installed the officers there and then my ten days into Indiana; New York convention, and Iowa. I am going to mention something about these last two conventions. I truly wish that some of our states would take a lesson from New York. Yes, they have a very big convention and they don't make it very easy for you to get in there. [Laughter.]

And since Indiana doesn't know this but I missed my plane this morning, so I missed my limousine which was a three-hour ride. These ladies and gentlemen had meetings in the morning. They complete their work. They have no meetings in the afternoon. We all know where we're going to eat. We sit at the same table except for the banquet and every night after dinner at 9:30 they had a great professional floor show, and I really wish that some of us could start having some more fun at our conventions. I think you would have more people there. [Applause.]

I'm not sure but I think New York had 700 people, and then, of course, we had the visitors but they don't have a lot of this baloney with so many people speaking and carrying on so long that our meetings are so long everybody gets tired, and I truly do feel that we would have more people at our convention if we could add a touch of this.

Now, Jack and Kit and myself and Chad, we all got to be the judges for the gypsy contest. There were some pretty terrific gypsies but the one I liked best was the one we gave the booby prize to and that was because he had the biggest boobies. [Laughter.]

This gentleman came in, his dress, his big earrings, bracelets on his wrists and ankles and necklaces dangling all over and out to here [indicating]. [Laughter.]

And he also had a mustache. [Laughter.]

Otherwise we wouldn't have known it was a man.

The Iowa convention was the conclusion of the conventions. I installed the officers there, also in New York, but this was kind of a homecoming for me and a few days of rest. I am a native of Iowa and I have family there. I flew into my brothers. For the few of you who don't know, some people keep saying to me, no, I didn't know you were a twin, Sally. I am not an identical twin. I have a gorgeous brother. He is not good looking any more. He is getting bald, and he has got a paunch, and he also is a life member of the DAV and his wife is a life member—not a life member—she is going to be this year I hope, but she is a member of the auxiliary.

You know, most of our veterans don't talk about what happened to them, and it was about three years ago when I was in Iowa that my twin brother and his wife drove down and we had attended a number of hospitality rooms and when we got back to the room it was about 2 o'clock in the morning and it happened to be the celebration of D-Day and my—and I hope I get this statement right this year because I sure goofed up last year. He was one of three survivors of his landing craft, not the whole D-Day invasion, but anyway, it was the first time I ever knew what happened to my brother. And you talk about stress and carrying things around inside you. Well, this is from World War II when he said, I thought I would never reach the surface of the water. He was blown so far down in and he said, I thought for sure I was a goner but he did make it and when he came up he saw hundreds of men who had life jackets on them who would have been saved except at that time the life jackets did not hold their faces up out of the water. He had a man calling for help—and he is a good swimmer—and tears were in his eyes when he said, I could have saved that man and I couldn't do it. I couldn't make it the 50 yards to save that man, and he's never been a member of the DAV until about a year ago because he always said, I'm so grateful I've always been able to work, and I finally convinced him that it wasn't because he would get anything but it was the help that he and his wife could give to the other DAV members and their families, and I hope this year that they will transfer to Waterloo, Iowa, and become active members there.

I'm sorry. I got off the track a little bit. But anyway, I did get to see a brother of mine who is also a veteran of World War II that I hadn't seen for about five years and is in a nursing home and has been for several years.

So that ended my conventions and thank you-all. You are just wonderful.

I would be remiss if I did not give thanks to a special group of people, the past national commanders. I feel that I've had the greatest officers and chairmen any national commander could have, and my thanks to all of you. You truly have beeen outstanding.

To my own unit, Phoenix No. 1, I know they love me because they do everything in the world for me and I truly thank them. No commander could come from a more supporting unit. You have truly been the greatest.

And to Betty Boyd, NEC for chairing and organizing my testimonial, you and your helpers gave me a memorable evening.

To Louise Ellis, DAV representative, page, sometimes my seamstress, our national VAVS chairman.

To my family for the wonderful cooperation and support they have given me, I truly love you. To my family and friends at the head table who have made it easy for me this year.

And if I've accomplished anything it's been due to you and them. Kit Seal Feighner, Lucille McCarthy and Maria, thank you so much. I love you.

And I love all of you, God bless, and that concludes my report. [Standing ovation and applause.]

Thank you-all very much, ladies.

We are not going to have our educational and loan fund report this morning. We will continue with that tomorrow.

And before Kit announces the committees. the chairmen, I want to say one thing to you. I'm a firm believer in this and I'm going to ask you, please do this. If you have a report that does not have a blank filled in, please do not throw those reports away. The units are telling you we had no activity in that area and what does a blank mean. Zero, none, whatever, so let's not throw out a good report because there happens to be a blank there. They just didn't happen to do anything in that area. The rest of their report might be terrific. So please do that for me. [Applause.] So at this time Kit is going to do her little job and thank you—all again for being so attentive. You truly have been a great audience this morning.

Kit Seal Feighner. Committees.

Americanism Committee: From District 1, Carolyn Kingsley; District 2, Sylvia DeSare; District 3, Shirley Cover; District 4, Josephine LaKosky; District 5, Mabel Punsell; District 6, Gladys Valentine; District 7, Mary Cabbler; District 8, Mary Farmer; District 9, Wilma Moore; District 10, Margaret Koop; District 11, Carol Aiming; District 12, Eileen Morrison; no one from 13; District 14, Margaret Haas; District 16, Lillian Galeno; District 18, Lou Landers; District 20, Katy Crite. Chairman of the committee will be Margaret Haas; your adviser will be Rose Schilpp.

If you note on your programs, your committee rooms you have numbers and a four and a three, that means what floor your room is on, and your meetings are at 2 o'clock today. Would Margaret Haas please pick up the Americanism folder.

Community service:

District 1, Donna Horton; District 2, Margaret Besale; District 3, Joan Poysee; District 4, Billie Joe Slaycomb; District 5, Hilda

Shaubver; District 6, Dorothy Davis; District 7, Nancy Carranine; District 8, Nettie Foy; District 9, Eleanor Bales; District 10, Zona McNeil; District 11, Lucille Johnston; District 12, Phyllis Green; District 13, Agnes Blankenship; District 14, Carlette Risdey; District 16, Erich Seingto; District 18, Mary Marcus; District 20, June Powell. Your adviser is Shelia Allred; chairman of the committee will be Nancy Carranine, District 7. Would she please pick up the folder.

The History Committee: The history books will be in your room and they are in the office now and anybody that hasn't turned in their history book, please see that it gets to our office, which is on the 4th floor all the way around the corner to the back in the Aurora Room before the books are taken to the committee, which will be at 2 o'clock.

On this committee in the past we had two members from each district serving. One judging the reports, one the books. Because of having 17 districts this year and 34 people, we suggested if one would be enough but some of them did put two on, so I'm going to call off all their names.

District 1, Clara Moore and Rita Minitelli; District 2 and 3 had no one; District 4, Mildred Beneric and Betty Slaycomb; District 5, Ramona Lang and Mary Joe Evans; District 6, Iva Irwin and Connie Foster; District 7, Carol Dooza; District 8, Joan Jackson and Nelly Doales; District 9, Virginia Alfred and Marie Redmond; District 10, Mary, I'm going to spell this last, J-o-m-o-d-r-a-z-y-a-s-k-i. [Laughter.]

Now you have got to say that's worse than Feighner. Mary Jomodrazyaski, Lucille Griffith; District 11, Flossy Kemp and Connie Orge; District 12, Carlene Velton; District 13, Irene Quanz; District 14, Marie Dougherty and Cassie Kittins; District 16, Ann Ross, Berteel Britt; District 18, Bee Gibson and Florence Younger; District 20, Connie Viance, Charlene Noland. Your adviser is our national history chairman, Pat Schroeder. Chairman of the committee would be Betty Slaycomb from Delaware. Betty, would you please pick up the folder and Pat will see that you have the books.

Hospital Committee: Dorothy Young, District 1: Enid Gonzales, District 2; Jean Schwig, District 3: Alma Stupeck, District 4; Elizabeth Overcast, District 5; Melinda Johnson, District 6; Mildred Vier, District 7; Ernie Covington, District 8; Margaret Robinson, District 9; Millie Jelsma, District 10; Marjorie Stone, District 11; Nancy Dawday, District 12; no one from 13; Sharon Bratmer, District 14; Melda Morgan, District 16; Becky Crawford, District 18; Nancy Lawrence, District 20. Your adviser will be Louise Rapistan, our national hospital chairman. The chairman will be Nancy Lawrence. Nancy, will you please pick up the folder.

Junior Activities: District 1, Marion Daily; District 2, Dorothy Binardsti; District 3, Carol McNeil; District 4, Betty Meredith; District 5, Helen Shadell; District 6, Mary Forrester; District 7, Ella Tyler; District 8, Jo Henry; District 9, Haddie Conti; District 10, Paulene Byzon; District 11, Alberta Amrey; District 12, Terri Griffin; no one from 13; District 14, Debbie Temple; District 16, Pat Gorman; District 18, Mary Clemens; District 20, Darlene Conroy. Your adviser will be Judy Utterling. There are some junior activity books in the office, Judy. The chairman will be Mary Clemens.

Legislation: District 1, Terri Howard; no one from District 2; District 3, Ethel Rae Mitchell; District 4, Louise Jacqueline; District 5, Helen Hogan; District 6, Florence Beefer; District 7, Esther Houston; District 8, Maggie Weaver; District 9, Goldie Smith; District 10, Chris Coppinger; District 11, Mirium Wright; District 12, Zella Contrell; District 13, Bobbie Morgan; District 14, Rose Younger; District 16, Alma Rameriz; District 18, Barbara Duke; District 20, Betty Bergman. Your adviser will be Katherine Pearson. Chairman of the committee will be Helen Hogan. Would you please pickup the folder.

Membership: District 1, Alma Toochey; District 2, Victoria Bygetta; District 3, Tammy Adams; District 4, Selma Payne; District 5, Rebecca Doyle; District 6, Annie Randolph; District 7, Barbara Chumley; District 8, Roberta Meade; District 9, Rose Mary Gallagher; District 10, Leona Sharp; District 11, Ottie Peacock; District 12, Grace Haas; District 13, Bee Bullo; District 14, Alma Deeds; District 16, Juanita Clark; District 18, Rose Griggsby; District 20, Nancy Doyle. Your adviser is your national membership Chairman, Loneita Shoemaker. Chairman will be Barbara Chumley, District 7. Please pick up the folder.

May Holmes Award: This award is judging the overall programs from the unit reports that the NECs have selected. Five reports from each of the districts.

On the committee will be District 1, Marie Gadvess; District 2, Alexandra Miller; District 3, Donna Sellers; District 4, Marion Potter; District 5, Marge Duffey; District 6, Lucy Davis; District 7, Virginia Ward; District 8, Elaine Ebart; District 9, Elaine Reagan; District 10, Jan Mitchell; District 11, Jo Lenauskue; District 12, Toni Lee Sanner; District 13, June Abbott; District 14, Shirley Lawson; District 16, Louise Avery; District 18, Pat Eagle; District 20, Joyce Dye. Your adviser will be Betty Wimmer, National Senior Vice Commander. Chairman of the committee will be Louise Avery. Would you please pick up this folder.

VAVS: District 1, Claudia Roy; District 2, Connie Rohr; no one from District 3; District 4, Josephine McCarthy; District 5, Ethel Monsese; District 6, Juanita Plumbley; District 7, Arvie Madau; District 8, Norma Henley; District 9, Paulene Carmen; District 10, Betty Schultz; District 11, Lee Darling; District 12, Loretta Lovelace; no one from 13; District 14, Lavonne Trollson; District 16, Paulene Woodsight; District 18, Norma Boone; District 20, Margaret Reynolds. Your adviser will be national VAVS chairman, Louise Ellis. The chairman of the committee will be Claudia Roy. Would you please pick up your folder.

I might say on the chairmen, National Commander Sally, Lucille and I worked on these committees yesterday. We wanted to make sure that there were no chairmen from two states, and so this is how we selected the chairmen of the committee.

Now, the Constitution and By-Law Committee.

They will select their own chairmen. Your adviser will be Lucille McCarthy. And you maybe out by Thursday, I'm not sure. [Laughter.]

District 1, Althea Hoffman; District 2, Dullas Polveski; District 3, Virginia Hartman; District 4, Loretta Kitchared; District 5, Myrtice Vinson; District 6, Patricia Demartini; District 7, Jean Howard;

District 8, Inez Sims; District 9, Elaine Morgan; District 10, Margaret Bumgardner; District 11, Betty Lomotto; District 12, Mary Ann Delree; District 13, Florene Gallatin; District 14, Mirium Kaiser; District 16, Vera Davis; District 18, Donna Sanders; District 20, Hazel Neal. Since you will select your own chairman, Lucille, you take the folder, please.

Now the biggie, the Nominating Committee. These two were elected committees.

District 1, Lillian Shumski; District 2, Stella Gnatek; District 3, Shirley Alessi; District 4, Patricia Parone; District 5, Nell Pittman; District 6, Gladys Talow; District 7, Mary Beth Schultz; District 8, Virginia Mitchell; District 9, Dorothy Van Hoy; District 10, Ruth Hight; District 11, Florence Valguardsen; District 12, Lillian Taletski; District 13, Ruth Hammer; District 14, Margie Anderson; District 16, Ruth Demoly; District 18, Betty Kennison; District 20, Eileen Goodman. Your adviser will be Junior Past National Commander, Flórence Daley.

Florence, will you please pick up the folders, and if there is anyone that has a fact sheet that hasn't turned them in, please see that they are into the office immediately following this meeting so that they can get ready for the committee at 2 o'clock.

That's the end of the committees.

[The door prizes were announced.]

[Whereupon the meeting recessed at 12:20 p.m.]

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

July 23, 1985

The Tuesday morning session of the 1985 National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA, July 23, 1985, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Sally Wilton.

Commander WILTON. Ladies, if you will please take your seats. We're going to start our meeting and hope to finish up this morning so you will have a free afternoon. [Applause.]

Good morning. We're going to try to start with the microphone as it is. If it doesn't blow us out, we'll go right ahead, so please be seated.

Good morning to everyone. We're happy to see you in here, and we're going to start with our prayer by National Chaplain, Mary Ellen Sissman.

MARY ELLEN SISSMAN. Let us pray.

Our Father, we thank you for your great love that moves and motivates our daily activities. Let us greet each new day in the spirit of thankfulness. What a marvelous blessing it is to awaken each morning to a new day filled with endless, unknown opportunities and possibilities. We are grateful for this precious gift. We ask that you guide us to use it wisely. In thy name we pray. Amen.

COMMANDER WILTON. You may be seated.

We'll have our credentials report by Liz Cody.

LIZ CODY. Good morning, ladies.

[Audience responded good morning.]

LIZ CODY. I'm going to do it a little different this morning. I'm going to first tell you that the following states will have to check with Lucille McCarthy. I neglected to do that yesterday. Nevada, Oklahoma and District of Columbia. Please meet with Lucille after the meeting. Okay.

The credential report as of Tuesday, the 23rd. We have 336 units, 37 departments, 773 delegates. That's a good showing. The alternates 124; visitors 167; the units, 1658; departments, 37; national officers and chairmen and NECs, 31; past national commanders, 12; for a total of 1738. That's a good showing, ladies. [Applause.]

Now, the following auxiliaries and departments must check with Judy in the office: Florida No. 9, Department of Maine, Maryland No. 28, Massachusetts 37, Massachusetts 49, New Hampshire No. 1, New York 126, New York 145, North Carolina 26, Ohio 34, Ohio 88, Department of Oregon, Tennessee No. 38, Tennessee 83, Texas No. 1, Texas 29, Virginia 27, and Puerto Rico No. 1. Please try to take care of that today. Judy will be there waiting for you. Thank you.

COMMANDER WILTON. Thank you, Liz.

At this time I'm going to ask National Historian, Thelma Williamson, past national commander, to come up and joiin us on the podium. Thelma always gives us a very interesting program, but this year it's going to be a little bit different and I'm not going to try to explain it. You will know why. We're going to begin this morning with our educational loan fund, Phyllis Greaney, Director.

PHYLLIS GREANEY. Thank you, Sally.

National Commander Sally Wilton; National Adjutant, Kit Seal Feighner; National Assistant Adjutant, Maria Tedrow; national officers, past national commanders, member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and guests.

Last August at our national convention in Washington, D.C., our newly elected commander, Sally Wilton, reappointed me as director of the national education loan fund. Thank you again, Sally.

As you know, I enjoy working with students and it is a worthwhile endeavor. The committee met at national headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky, on May 20th, 1985. The committee consists of National Commander Sally Wilton; Past National Commander, Chris Maguire; Delores Solevey from Michigan and myself as director. Kit Seal Feighner and Maria Tedrow attended our meeting and they were very helpful.

We made minor changes on the application form and the promissory note. We also decided that the letter that is sent to the student school should state that one half of the money is to be allocated for the first semester and one half for the second semester. The reason for this is that if a student withdraws from school during the first semester, one half the money would be returned to national headquarters. The purpose of the fund is to provide interest free loans for needy and eligible students who attend or plan to attend college, universities, or vocational schools.

Last year, I had a request from a student while she was still attending a public high school. She was going to be a junior. Naturally, she did not qualify.

I would like to review the elegibility requirements. They are, one, children of full paid life members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. If the mother is no longer living, children of full paid life members of Disabled American Veterans. Three, full paid life members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. I think the eligibility requirements are very clear, however, one male veteran kept insisting he was a full paid life member of the auxiliary. [Laughter.]

Many also base their eligibility on their fathers full pay life membership in the DAV although their mothers are living. On the application form we ask that the applicants do not change the eligibility requirements, yet sometimes they do. One student said she read the eligibility requirements and felt she was eligible. When she sent me her completed application, she wrote that she was eligible through her grandmother's full paid life membership. One member of the DAV felt his daughter was eligible. He also suggested that instead of sending the checks directly to the schools, we should send them to the students fathers. [Laughter.]

When the application was returned, there was no indication that her mother was a full paid life member of the DAVA. She based her elegibility on her father's full paid life membership in the DAV. I wrote and told her that she was not eligible since her mother was not a full paid life member of the DAVA. Her father wrote and suggested that we grant his daughter a loan and deduct from this payment for his daughter's full paid life membership. [Laughter.]

This year we granted up to $1,000 to new applicants that were selected by the committee. Billing for repayment begins 90 days after graduation or immediately upon withdrawal from school. Payments of no less than $25 monthly are expected until the loan is paid in full. The loans are interest free. For the academic year 1984 '85 we granted loans to 40 students. Of these one found other funding and did not need a loan. One decided to continue working and attend school on a part-time basis and one student withdrew. Of the remaining 37 students, ten graduated this June. Two of those graduating requested renewal of the loans to attend graduate school. One former student requested renewal of his loan to attend graduate school. One student did not request renewal nor did she send me her grades by the time the committee met. Another student will be attending a community college next fall and will not need the loan. For the academic year 1985–86 we renewed 28 loans and granted 15 new loans, a total of 43 student loans.

Academic achievement and financial need are considerations in granting these loans. The number of students to whom we can grant loans depends on what we can afford. Unfortunately, we could not grant loans to many eligible and needy applicants. The committee also decides the amount of the loan each student receives. We grant loans for a maximum of four years provided the student maintains good academic standing, a financial need continues to exist and the student answers all the correspondence. Students must be attending school full-time. Only one new applicant per family per year will be considered.

This year nine students will be attending graduate schools. Their goals are to attain degrees in the following area. Business administration, two students; expressive therapy; human resource management and development; law, three students; medicine and mobility instruction. The schools they are attending for graduate work are

Babson College, Chapman College, George Washington University, Leslie College, Michigan University, Ohio Northern University, Oral Roberts University, Temple University and the University of Kentucky.

We are assisting 34 undergraduates to obtain their educational goals in the following areas. Accounting; archeology; automotive technician; biology; microbiology; business administration, four students; communications; education; engineering, two students; aerospace engineering; electrical engineering, two students; chemical engineering, two students; civil engineering; genetic engineering; finance; journalism; industrial and labor relations; labor relations; law enforcement; management relationships; medical technicians; nursing, four students; pharmacy, two students; and, therapeutic recreation. The colleges that seven of these students will be attending this fall are Boston College, East Field Community College, Grand Valley State College, Hollins College, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Pensacola Christian College, Wilkes College. Three students are attending the following institutes: Northern Business Technical Center, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Wooster Polytechnical Institute. The universities that 24 students are attending this fall are the following: Adams State, Arizona, Cornell, Harding, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio State, Mankato State, Maryland, Michigan State (two students), Michigan Technical, Missouri, Northern Kentucky, North Dakota, New York, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, State University of New York, Syracuse, Texas Technical, Virginia Polytechnical Institute and Virginia.

I am very pleased that we were able to grant 43 loans to students to further their education. We could not do this without your cooperation. We cannot have fund raisings. We depend on you. Some of you may think that the mandates that units pay to national take care of the educational loan fund but they do not. For each unit that pays national mandates of $10, $6.00 is for the educational loan fund. Not every unit pays its mandates. We could not survive to assist needy eligible students if we depend only on revenue of the national mandates. We depend on contributions from state departments of both DAV and the DAVA, from units, chapters, individuals and memorials. The DAV Auxiliary has been assisting our disabled veterans dependence, seek their educational goals since the early 1930s. I hope we will continue to do so; however, we, the committee, cannot do this without your assistance.

I hope that every delegate to this convention will return home with the commitment to seek support for the educational loan fund from their units, chapters, state departments of both the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary. It is our veterans dependence that we are endeavoring to assist. Some DAV and DAV state departments and units of the DAV and chapters of the DAVA and chapters of the DAV do have a lot of money in their budget for the national educational loan fund. I hope more of you would consider doing this. Our future lies with our young people. The better educated they are, the better this country will be. Many very talented and bright people did not have the opportunity to make the most of their talents because they could not afford an education. Let us all have a commitment to do as much as we can to help the future generation reach their educational goals.

We, the committee, would like to increase the number of students that the DAV Auxiliary are assisting. Some we—since we cannot have fund raising activities we depend on the membership to do so. I would like to say that next year, that due to you and your efforts there will be an increase in the number of students we grant loans to. I hope you, the delegates at this convention, are as dedicated to helping our younger generation reach their educational goals as we, the committee, are.

Again, I wish to thank Kit Seal Feighner, Maria Tedrow and their staff for their support during the past years. The national staff do all of the billing for former students, send the checks to the schools the students are attending and have to deal with the auditor.

I would also like to thank my good friend, Mary Sullivan, who typed this report. It would have taken me weeks of aggravation to type it. Although it has been a busy year, it was correspondence surmounting to close to 500 letters. It has been enjoyable.

If you have any questions or concerns about the national educational loan fund, I will be glad to meet with you now or at any time during the convention. On behalf of the committee and our students, I wish to thank all of you who have and will contribute to the national educational loan fund. Thank you for your kind attention. Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Greaney. [Applause.]

MAURINE PEDERSON. Commander Sally, Maurine Pederson, Past National Commander, may I suggest that a container be circulated around the room so we may all contribute to the educational loan fund. Thank you, Maurine. [Applause.]

Commander WILTON. They have two bags they are going to take, and if we could please have your attention while the bags are going around, we have some ladies here with, it looks like some checks, that I would like to recognize Mary Ann Marcus, Phoenix Unit No. 1.

MARY ANN MARCUS. We have a check for her educational loan fund, Sally.

Commander WILTON. $200. Phyllis, where are you? You really should be accepting these.

CALIFORNIA DELEGATE. This is from our unit in California for the educational loan fund.

Commander WILTON. $100.

PHYLLIS GREANEY. Thank you very much from the ladies auxiliary No. 1 from California. Also from the——

Commander WILTON. Unit 20, Arizona.

PHYLLIS GREANEY. Thank you very much. A check for $2,000 from Glendale, Arizona.

Commander WILTON. Ann Ross, California.

PHYLLIS GREANEY. Thank you very much. This is from the Department of California $1,000. Thank you, Ann Ross. [Applause.]

Commander WILTON. Unit 41, New Jersey.

This is from the great State of New York.

NEW YORK DELEGATE. The Department of New York is giving $283 on behalf of our state department past commander Phyllis Kamitski.

STELLA GNATEK. Unit 82, $100 in memory of our treasurer who we lost recently. N.Y.

Commander Wilton. Department of Maine, $100.

Phyllis Greaney. Thank you very much, Maine.

Michigan Delegate. The Department of Michigan is very proud to present this money to the educational and loan fund and as our personal check in here from Margaret Clute and $310 from the department. This money was collected voluntarily just like you are doing now with your bags at our state convention.

Phyllis Greaney. Thank you Michigan.

Commander Wilton. Here is our baby at national, Judy Utterly.

Judy Utterly. From the Department of Ohio, check for $50.

Commander Wilton. Thank you. Department of Kentucky.

Kentucky Delegate. Department of Kentucky, the bluegrass state presents a thousand dollars.

Phyllis Greaney. Thank you Department of Kentucky.

Commander Wilton. Department of Tennessee.

Phyllis Greaney. It's a check for $200.

Commander Wilton. Hey, this is from the great state of Texas.

Texas Delegate. For Unit 31, I wish to present a check for $100 and also I want to say thanks to all of you who contributed because you kept educating my daughter.

Commander Wilton. Ladies, let's keep it down, please.

Phyllis Greaney. The Department of Texas at their state convention again has been very generous to us and sent a check for $8,000 for the educational fund. [Applause.]

And also I would like to say that the Department of Texas has a scholarship fund in memory of John Early and also for Catherine Early, and they still haven't forgotten the national educational loan fund.

Commander Wilton. Department of Nebraska.

Nebraska Delegate. I'm told to say this is a first. Here is $500 from the department.

Commander Wilton. Unit 32, Texas.

Texas Delegate. In honor of past unit commander Dorothy Dix.

Commander Wilton. This lady said—you tell them what you said. I think it's very nice.

Texas Delegate. It's just a small token from my husband and I who can help some person who can not help themselves.

Commander Wilton. Small ones are very important too.

Louise Ellis. Giving $50 in memory of my husband.

Phyllis Greaney. Thank you-all very much. I know that we can certainly appreciate what you've done, and I hope that next year if I am still director I can report that we have increased the number of students because of your generosity. Thank you. We certainly will let you know the totals after we've got it all counted up. Thank you.

Commander Wilton. Phyllis, thank you so much, you and your committee. This was a truly great committee to work on, to help our young people get their education. [Applause.]

Now, these two large donations from Texas and Unit 20 in Arizona is terrific, but please remember every small donation is just as important because I myself am going to give a check. It's not going to be for a thousand dollars. I'm broke. [Laughter.]

At this time we would like to present our membership report and awards. Would you please come forward. All right. This is where our national historian comes in and why we ask he to come up. We know we have a lot of new people in the audience, and I'm sure a lot of the older people do not know how many—how some of these awards, many of them were started. So all yours.

Thelma Williamson. Thank you, Sally.

Commander Wilton, national officers, past national commanders, members and guests.

At the fall conference in Cincinnati last November many questions arose about our awards, so I decided to try to explain these to you just before they are given here at this convention. I shall do this in several sections and in the general order in which these awards were established. Perhaps some of you wonder why we even give awards. First and foremost, they are an incentive to our members to work even harder and they encourage more participation in all of our programs. Obviously, then, they create competition and enthusiasm which, in turn, produce more achievement.

The presentation of these awards gives special recognition to individuals and to groups for their efforts during the entire year. I'm sure there isn't anyone here who doesn't enjoy hearing her name, her unit or the name of her state singled out for an award. At the national conventions, committees composed of one member from each district judge the reports and determine the winner in each of the established categories.

At the end of the session—yesterday you heard Kit announce the names of the people who were going to be on the committees. These people worked yesterday afternoon and I don't know whether any of them are still working or not. I'm not sure whether they are through, but they worked and came up with a winner and these are the awards, the plaques that we are giving out today.

Now, the types of awards that have been given in the past are of various kinds. Small gavels and silver loving cups were very popular in the early days. Sometimes we had special prizes and these prizes consisted of lapel watches, electric cookers, waffle irons and silver serving trays to name just a few. Many of these were donated by the businessmen in the area and from other organizations. For many years the most popular ones were the traveling trophies which the units could keep if they won them for three years in a row. However, problems arose with these traveling trophies. Sometimes the winners of the previous year forgot, I hope it wasn't intentional, forgot to bring them to the next convention and at other times they mailed them in and sometimes they arrived in shambles and could not be used.

At the fall convention in 1966 the executive board voted to retire all traveling trophies and henceforth to give the plaques that we have here today, and this is for one year and the winner gets to keep the plaque. The first record of any award I can find goes back to 1927. Now, remember our organization was started in 1922 and five years later the national headquarters offered a gavel. You had a choice of ebony or white ivory. She offered this to the unit that had the most members. Although we have no official figures of that time, records indicate that we had less than 1,000 members in our entire organization throughout the country. I'm sorry I can't tell you who won that gavel. I can't find the name of the winner, but the two leading contenders—so both of you can take credit—were

Indianapolis No. 1 and Los Angeles, No. 5, but I never did find out the winner.

Four years later we had our first membership chairman. At this convention we have the national commander who appointed that membership chairman. She was Mrs. Frieda Francis Mooney now Mrs. Frieda Francis Jones. Is Frieda in the room? There she is. [Applause.]

Will you turn around for them to see. You can stay up for a minute. I want them to recognize you. Frieda was our national commander in 1931, '32, '32–'33 and she was so good they kept her '33 and '34. [Applause.]

Frieda Francis was the only national commander who was elected three times and all in succession, and let me tell you something else about this lady. After she was national commander during World War II, she went into the army and served in our armed forces. We're very proud of her. [Applause.]

You will find Frieda's name in your constitution and bylaws on page 61 and so when you look at that, I want you to remember I saw that lady. By 1935 our awards were divided, the membership awards were divided into five groups and quotas were established. So remember this, there's nothing new about quotas. We've had them for 50 years. And in '38 we added a sixth group because our organization was growing so we had those same six groups today but we have changed the numbers. Thank you, Frieda. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Our awards are given to units, to departments and to individual members. At one time the national commanders gave a metal of honor to each person who secured 25 new members. They made it a little bit more difficult then, and also they gave an award to the individual who secured the most members regardless of the number. Units were given awards at one time for having more members than the members in their chapter. I wonder how many we have today that have more members than in the chapter. I don't think we had very many then either.

We also had at one time an award for the unit doing the most for handicapped children, which was also I thought a nice award. This year members who signed up five new members got one of the bags and a lot of you became bag ladies. These bags, as you know, say on them Sally's theme, Together We Make The Difference.

Sometimes departments receive recognition for securing an auxiliary for each chapter in the state. In order to increase our membership, individual states were encouraged to challenge other states to contests for the most members. For example, one year California challenged Ohio. Colorado took on Massachusetts and Ohio raced with Michigan. Those Ohio people were really running and the winners settled the scores at the national convention, however they decided ahead of time. I believe Florida is our largest state now.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Only state to reach 10,000.

THELMA WILLIAMSON. How about some of you states out there challenging Florida.

Commander WILTON. Like California.

THELMA WILLIAMSON. Texas, New York, Michigan. This creates competition and again is good-natured competition and it does give us more members and we do get more work. Now, before we're going to give the membership in just a moment.

Before I start talking about the next category, which is history, I would like to explain the difference in the history chairman and the national historian. The national historian attempts to locate assembled records of their organization from its very beginning in 1922. She maintains the records, both current and past, and these are available at our national headquarters. Our get together all of these names I have a book, well, I won't tell you how big but I have two of them. The one I have at home and the other one is in the office at our national headquarters, and I have the name of every officer, elected officer who has ever served in our organization. So if you have anybody in your state and you wonder if she ever, if your state ever had a national officer, just send me a postcard and I will check and let you know.

Now, the national history chairman oversees the activities of the current year. She's also responsible for making the national history book, which is presented to our national commander each year. Now, some of you have been sending to me some pictures and things of the commander at the time. These should go to your national history chairman. She is the one that is working on the pictures for the current year.

Now, we also have with us a national history chairman who served this organization for over 25 years. She was also in charge of Carville. She is Mrs. Florence Green from Michigan. Florence, will you please stand and be recognized? I want you to see these ladies that keep coming back. Mrs. Green later became our national commander and even when she was national commander she retained her work at Carville. Florence, I wonder how many trips you have made to Carville.

FLORENCE GREEN. Many times.

THELMA WILLIAMSON. You probably can't count that high, can you? We're glad to have you with us. She hasn't been with us for a few years so we're delighted that Florence can be here.

The history chairman became a part of our DAVA at our very first convention. They elected a historian which really was a history chairman and she served for one year and then they had another one the next year. However, it appears that no awards were given for more than ten years after that.

Now, I know you've been waiting to hear the names of some of the winners of these awards, so I will pause while we have the presentation of the membership and the history chairman. Now, this is the history chairman, and I will continue a little bit later. [Applause.]

COMMANDER WILTON. Loneita Shoemaker is our national membership chairman and our convention chairman, Barbara Chumley, will give you the report and the winners.

BARBARA CHUMLEY. Thank you. Before I get started on membership reports, I would like to ask that the members of Florida please leave the room and congregate outside in the hall. That means now. [Laughter.]

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. I think they are out there.

Barbara Chumley. National Commander Sally, all other national officers, past national commanders, NEC delegates, alternates, members and guests.

The membership committee comprised of members from 17 districts with adviser, National Junior Vice Commander Loneita Shoemaker met in the Edgewood Room, Sheraton Hotel, 22 July from 2:00 to 5:45 p.m. The committee members will stand and be recognized as your name is called. District 1, Alma Tookey, something like that, forgive me. I have a thing with names but I'm trying. District two, Victoria Bigetta; District No. 3, Tammy Adams; 4, Selma Fine; 5, Rebecca Doyle; 6, Annie Randolph, myself from District 7; District 8, Roberta Meade; District 9, Rose Mary Gallagher; District 10, Leona Sharp; 11, Addie Peacock; 12, Grace Haas; 13, Bee Pulio; 14, Aloma Deeds; 16, Juanita Clark; 18, Rose Grigsby; 20, Nancy Doyle and our adviser, of course, Loneita Shoemaker, our dear sweet lady up here. Thank you ladies for your patience. [Applause.]

Perseverance, hard work and your time, of course. Our mission was to decide the winners in eight groups as listed on the '84–'85 membership report forms. Those winners were to be based on percentage gains over quota according to unit size.

The groups and sizes are as follows: Group No. 1, unit with over 200 members; Group two, unit with 101 to 200 members; Group 3, unit with 51 to 100 members; Group 4, unit with 25 to 50 members; Group 5, unit with under 25 members; Group 6, to the new unit with the most new members; Group 7, to the department with the largest percentage gain; and, Group 8, to the department with the largest numerical gain.

I believe that the award winners should be very proud of their accomplishments. As they have set the standards of excellence to the remainder of the members, units and departments to try and beat this membership year. Let's commit ourselves to growth.

The committee made two recommendations to be brought to this convention. The first was by motion which was unanimously approved by the entire committee. The motion was, quote, that all committee reports be uniform in judging by groups and their groups be divided as follows. Group No. 1, 201 or more members; Group No. 2, 101 to 200 members; Group No. 3, 51 to 100 members; Group 4, 26 to 50 members, and, Group 5, 25 and under.

The committee further recommended that the membership be modified—the reports be modified to change entry line one to read, list names of members who brought in at least five new senior members and the number of senior members each member brought in, I have attached a copy of that report, the recommended modifications made thereon.

Madam Commander Sally, we realize that this recommendation for a change requires a motion, however you may not wish to entertain a motion at this time and if not, we will set forth that motion at whatever time you feel is appropriate.

Commander **Wilton**. We do this at fall conference, and our national chairman that is her prerogative. The recommendation will be given to her.

Barbara Chumley. Thank you.

At this time I will announce and present the various awards with the help of our membership chairman, Loneita Shoemaker. She will present her special program awards last. As the winners are announced, will the representative from that unit or department come forward to receive your award.

Group No. 1, unit with over 200 members, from South Dakota with a 119.15 percentage gain over quota, Arthur H. Mitchell Unit No. 1. [Applause.]

Group No. 2, units with 101 to 200 members, from the state of Ohio with a 201.27 percentage gain over quota, Harold J. Hynch No. 131. [Applause.]

SOUTH DAKOTA DELEGATE. There's going to be dancing in South Dakota when I get back.

BARBARA CHUMLEY. Group No. 3, unit size 51 to 100 members, from the state of Texas with 202.94 percentage gain over quota, Callack No. 114. [Applause.]

TEXAS DELEGATE. Thank you. This is the second year in a row for them. It's beautiful

BARBARA CHUMLEY. Group No. 4, units with 25 to 50 members, from the state of Maryland with a 284.62 percentage gain over quota, L. L. Merrill No. 3. [Applause.]

MARYLAND DELEGATE. Thank you, ladies. I'm new at this organization and I'm proud to receive the plaque. [Applause.]

BARBARA CHUMLEY. Group No. 5, units under 25 members for the state of Idaho with a 209.09 percentage gain over quota, Lou Wiston No. 78. [Applause.]

IDAHO DELEGATE. Thank you, ladies. These ladies have really worked hard. They are really going to be delighted when they get this.

BARBARA CHUMLEY. Group No. 6, new unit with the most new members, from the state of Indiana with 39 members, Green [illegible] [illegible]. [Applause.]

[illegible] QUANZ. I'm [illegible] Quanz for the NEC for the 13th district. I am proud to accept this for Idaho. I know it will be a big surprise to them. Thank you very much.

INDIANA DELEGATE. Thank you so much. It would not have been possible if my—if the members of the Department of Indiana hadn't worked so hard for [illegible]. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

BARBARA CHUMLEY. Group No. 7, the department with the largest percentage increase, with a percentage of 113.49 percent gain over quota, last year's [illegible] were 2,376, the '84–'85 members were 2,784, their quota was 2,453. They had a plus 331 variation. The winner was Department of Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATE. I've never believed this could happen. I'm very proud to be the commander of the great state of Pennsylvania, and I'm even prouder of the ladies that worked so hard for this. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

BARBARA CHUMLEY. Group No. 8, department with the largest numerical increase, with an increase of 587 members gained over last year's total, ending with 103.62 percentage over quota by 353 members, dad-gum, winner, Department of Florida. [Applause.]

FLORIDA DELEGATE. I was the department commander for Florida last year and Rebecca Doyle was the membership chairman, and you wouldn't believe what we did to achieve my goal of 10,000 members. I'll bet Sally can agree with me that we were signing them up at Tallahassee Days and everywhere we could find one, but to California and New York I hate to tell you we have our goals, our eyes set on 20,000 for next year. [Applause.]

So if you are going to catch us, you are going to have to work. Thank you very much.

Barbara Chumley. Ladies, second place, special award goes to Agnes Underwood from the state of Indiana.

Barbara Chumley. By the way, if you need to change the film in my camera, there's extra in my purse. Pat.

Loneita Shoemaker. Accepting this award for Agnes Underwood is the NEC, Mary Patterson.

Mary Patterson. I know Agnes would be very proud to have been here but she had just lost her brother about two weeks ago and she couldn't come, and I've knowen Agnes ever since she's been in the auxiliary and if she could have been here, she would. Thanks a lot. [Applause.]

Barbara Chumley. The winner of the special membership award, a plaque and a bond, Louise Avery from the Department of California. [Applause.]

Ann Ross. Louise Avery is very sorry she can't be here this morning and going to be very disappointed that she can't be up here accepting this award personally but we'll see that she gets it.

Loneita Shoemaker. This award is presented to Louise. She signed up 195 members. [Applause.]

Accepting the award is the Department of California Commander, C. Ann Ross.

In addition to that award, if you will remember at the fall conference one of our special incentives was that the person who signed up the most new members that was not in a blitz was a $100 U.S. savings bond. Louise Avery is the recipient of this award also. [Applause.]

Barbara Chumley. The committee expresses its thanks for the privilege of working on this committee and for the confidence and patience shown to us by our adviser. I thank you for the honor of being your membership committee chairman, as membership has been a favorite cause of mine for several years. It's signed Barbara Chumley, chairman. And I move that my report be accepted.

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you, Barbara.

Barbara Chumley. Thank you.

Commander **Wilton**. We accept the committees' reports all at one time. I guess Florida is going to give us a show now.

Rebecca Doyle. National Commander Sally, National Adjutant Kit, national officers, delegates and guests.

Let me say thanks for allowing the state of Florida at this time to show that together we do and can make the difference. The state of Florida has the honor of being the first department to reach the membership of 10,000 and over. Our members worked hard for this past year and deserve to show off.

So Florida, do your stuff and on with the parade. Play us a little when the Saints or something. Hey, girls, that's an orange not a pumpkin. I mean, really, Florida is orange. Ain't she sexy? You-all falling behind over there. Catch up. Oh, there goes my flag.

Commander Sally, this is from me on behalf of the Department of Florida. It's a little something that you can remember this convention by. I hope you like it and a special thanks to Ernie Boulton who bought it for me and you get my hat too.

Commander WILTON. Oh, I want that. I'm going to be a member of Florida just so I can go to that southern caucus. We have a special guest with us but before we do that, Florida has challenged the biggest states or any of the states.

Commander WILTON. They are the biggest unit in the United States, and we challenge any other unit in the United States to beat us. Arizona No. 1, Phoenix No. 1.

[Audience responded how many.]

Commander WILTON. Mary Ann, how many members do we have? Approximately 1,100. 1,083 Loneita says.

At this time we do have a very, very special guest, and I would like to introduce our national hospital chairman first, Louise Rapisand who will be escorting our special guest. Please give this lady a warm welcome, Sister Rose Anthony De'Alfonso from Carville.

[Escorted.]

LOUISE RAPISAND. Commander Sally, and national officers, delegates, good morning.

[Audience responded good morning.]

LOUISE RAPISAND. It's my wonderful privilege this morning to introduce a very special lady that Commander Sally and I met during our trip to Carville. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sally for this very, very special year. Many offices offer you a lot of learning but this one offers you fulfillment. Believe you me, hospital chairman has been a tremendous thrill and I don't think I've ever done anything that I had enjoyed as much and particularly because I was able to bring to you today Sister Rose Anthony D'Alfonso. She has been a native El Paso—well, I just moved her. I'm from El Paso. She was born and raised in New Orleans and she attended school at the Hotel School of Nursing where she became a registered nurse. She continued her education at the Louisiana State University and received a B.S. in nursing and she continued on to get a Master's of nursing from Catholic University of America. She has served in Missouri, in North Dakota, Louisiana and Waco, Texas. We knew we were going to get Texas in there, see. She has been at Carville since October of 1977. Presently she is the clinical nurse at the ladies infirmary at Carville.

And you know they always say that the best things come in small packages, and I present to you a little small package who is a tremendous person, Sister Rose A'Alfonso. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Sister D'ALFONSO. I even came in high heels and I can't see. Even if you didn't move me from New Orleans you at least got me in the South. Texas. Good morning to everyone.

[Audience responded good morning.]

Sister D'ALFONSO. When one of your members came to Carville and visited and I had an opportunity to say a little bit about the hospital, there was little thought that would be before so many of you to again speak about Carville. I feel honored and pleased to be before so many members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary as I am aware of the many things you have done for our patients at Carville over the years. I'm also pleased because I am a member of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul. Some, only some of you may remember, it goes back a little while. We were the sisters who wore the big white sailboat hats and were sometimes called God's geese. In fact, one day when I was in a department store, a little girl said, hey, mommy, look at the lady. She's got a butterfly hat.

Well, anyway, our community has served the patients at Carville almost since its very beginning. To speak about an institution, it is well to give a little bit about the history and its beginnings. The word leprosy is only for historical use as today all effort is being made to use the term Hansen's disease or for short HD. It is so named after Dr. Gerhart Hansen who first discovered the bacillus, which is believed to be the cause of leprosy. It was in 1878 the Louisiana State Board of Health was aroused by the legislature to make a survey because of a preference of leprosy in Louisiana and particularly in the first parish. Dr. Joseph Jones, who made the survey, concluded that it was the duty of the state to provide the maintenance of the patients with leprosy, that they should be isolated and also that they should stop sending the patients to the charity hospitals that was already overcrowded. Patients with leprosy were isolated at the old smallpox hospital in 1883. Conditions in the pest house, as it was called, were described by 17-year-old cub reporter of the New Orleans Picayune newspaper—it's now called the Times Picayune. I'm sure some of you while you've all been at the convention has got a little glimpse at it. John Kendall Smith, the reporter conducted a campaign calling attention to the fact that Louisiana had an unusually large number of patients with leprosy and that they were not cared for.

Dr. Isadore Dyer, professor at Tulane University, joined the campaign. Responding to adverse publicity the state legislature created a vote of control authorized to find a home and hospital for the patients with leprosy from Louisiana. On June 9th, 1894, Dr. Dyer, president of the board, presented a plan endorsed by the local medical society for such an institution. It was hoped that this institution would be near Tulane University where experiments and research could be done. Because of public fear, the only attainable site was the abandoned Indian camp plantation located along the Mississippi River at Point Clair near Carville. Now, that was about 85 miles above New Orleans and 25 miles from Baton Rouge. A five-year lease was obtained by the false pretense that it was to be used for the development of an ostrich farm, in Louisiana, ostriches. On November 30th, 1894, seven patients were transferred from New Orleans to Carville on a coal barge, which was the only means of transportation obtainable.

They left secretly at night and in the dark to prevent possible demonstrations because the people feared to be living near the patients with leprosy. The new home included a dilapidated mansion and eight dinkey slave cabins and this was on 337 acres of land. The patients were put in charge of Dr. Ellie Wells as physician. After a year's trial with only the attending physician looking after the patient, it was very evident that there was need for nursing care and it was at this time at the suggestion of Dr. Dyer, the services of the Daughters of Charity were requested for the nursing and household management. Negotiations were begun and on March 25th, 1896, a contract was signed whereby services were fortuitous. However, there was to be an allowance of $100 per year per sister for clothing and incidentals.

I might add at this time since 1921 when the United States Government took over, the sisters no longer had this gratuitous and $100 per year. We are now like all the lay people under civil service and receive the same salary for the same position. Many sisters volunteered but only four were chosen and Sister Betty Tristhart was put in charge of the group.

The sisters arrived on April 27th, 1896. The mansion reserved for the sisters was big but very dilapidated. Only two rooms out of this whole mansion was available for the sisters to live in. There was a kitchen and dining room provided but it was built on stilts, so poorly constructed that light showed between the boards. There were many hardships. Swampy land covered with weeds and leaking cisterns and they didn't even have enough outhouses to take care of everyone. There were rats, bats, lizards and snakes. Standard equipment for the sisters was an ax to kill the water moccasins and a lantern to light the way when the patients summoned them at night when they rang their little bell. I must say they did have a call system in those early days.

On December 21st, 1905, Indian camp was purchased by the state to become the permanent site of the Louisiana state leprosorium. In the meantime, the United States government was beginning to get patients in other states with leprosy; of course, they needed places but none were available for the same reasons we had a hard time in Louisiana for fear. So the state of Louisiana made an agreement by an act whereby the United States government could purchase the hospital and all of its buildings. This was done on February 1st, 1917, however, because of World War I it could not be carried through. The hospital was purchased on January 3rd, 1921.

On February 1st, 1921, the United States flag was raised and officially called the United States Public Health Service Hospital with doctor Oswald E. Genner as the first medical officer in charge.

Today it is known as the National Hansen's Disease Center. Marked improvements have taken place over the years and continue to do so today under the leadership of Dr. John Troutman, the present director. Today the beauty of the grounds and the buildings with all of the available facilities for total care bear no resemblance to the slave cabins overrun with weeds. In fact, when visitors are told that the administration building near the entrance of the hospital is that dilapidated mansion, it's hard to believe. It is really a sight to behold and it's probably as pretty as the days when the slave made bricks to put up that beautiful mansion.

One might ask what is Hansen's disease or commonly called leprosy. It is a chronic infectious disease of man. Like many of the diseases it is caused by a germ and this specific germ is Bacillus and the scientific name is Mycobacterium leprae. You don't have to remember that. It's essentially a disease of the peripheral nerves but it also affects the skin, the eyes, the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, muscles, bones and testis. The mode of transmission of HD is unknown but the commonly accepted theory is that it's transmitted by way of the upper respiratory tract. The degree of susceptability of the person, the extent of exposure and the environmental conditions are some factors probably of importance in transmission. It is estimated that more than 90 percent of people are probably immune to HD. The high degree of immunity might well hold true for countries where the disease is of low epidemicity, such as the United States, but in other areas of the world numbers of susceptible persons may be greater.

Experience at Carville and that of others apparently shows that clinically active disease seldom develop in workers assigned to HD hospitals or as theirself a casual contact at a nominal side fee. Cases of HD which respond satisfactory to treatment because they are not infectious within a short period of time.

Recently, we did have a program in Louisiana area highlighting Carville and the numbers they gave of people who have worked at Carville who have had the disease or who have contracted the disease were two. I do know that in total there has been 109 sisters who have served at the hospital and not one of us have ever come up with the disease. So we know by indemnity that a disease is always present in the community but clinically there are few people who have the disease.

It is estimated that there are 4,000 known cases of HD in the continental United States and Hawaii. The majority of these cases are to be found in the states of Texas, Louisiana, Florida, California and New York. These are areas where a lot of immigrants come through. There has been an increase in the number of cases in the United States during the past few years and this has been attributed to the influx of immigrants from indemnic areas coming into this country. HD admissions for 1984 at Carville shows 52 first admissions. Now, we do have many more admissions but these are first admissions, the first time they have had a diagnosis. However, three did not have the disease. Of this number of 52, 39 were foreign born and 26 or 50 percent were aliens.

HD usually does not cause death. The disease on occasion results in complications which may be fatal. Most patients have a normal life span. There are a number of patients at Carville in their late 70s, 80s and even 90s. Because of involvement of the eyes which can result in blindness and because of the loss of sensation in the extremities, the disease can cause deformity and permanent disabilities especially if treatment is not started early or patients do not follow the prescribed treatment. And I might add that fingers do not fall off, feet do not fall off, nose and ears do not fall off. Because of damage there is no feeling. They do have infections and what happens is atrophy of these extremities, so they do not fall off as the belief. Actually, those patients with HD have a double burden. The disease itself and the stigma that goes with it. Hopefully the stigma of the disease is slowly being resolved. Most patients are fearful of sharing with anyone that they have or have had HD because of doing so frequently results in loss of job, friends and at times family.

I might add here too when patients came to the hospital before they used what they called alias names. In other words, they didn't give their true identity not so much for themselves but for their families. Today the patients are given their own names so hopefully, as we say, the stigma will be resolved.

The National Hansen's Disease Center at Carville provides specialized HD care to persons anywhere in the United States requiring such care. This care is without cost to the patient. Each person entering the hospital is assigned to a physician. A medical and nurse assessment is made and a full physical workup is done. There is also a social worker assigned to the patient who may take care of nonmedical problems. After a few days a clinical conference is held by many staff members and treatment is put into progress. There are specific drugs to treat HD and the celliform drugs introduced at Carville in 1941 is the most economical and effective medication for Hansen's disease. The medication we use mostly is Dapsone or for short D.D.S. However, there are other medications that we use, and these medications are sometimes used because the patient becomes resistant to the celliform drug. Medications are also given in combinations.

Children's care is provided for all patients physically, emotionally and spiritually. Specialized medical, surgical or psychiatric care is provided when there is a need. If this need does come up, the patient is referred to a specialized clinical consultant. If necessary, patients may be transferred to an acute service hospital.

I might add that the town of Baton Rouge and also New Orleans has been very generous in accepting our patients from Carville. We used to have a public health service hospital here in New Orleans but in 1981 most of the PH hospitals were closed and Carville was the only one to remain open. So when a public health service hospital closed, we did have to go find other facilities for acutely ill patients, and I think this has been much of a help in reducing the stigma and having other medical people accept our patients. In Baton Rouge there is a close relationship between the nurses. In fact, we had the nurses meeting at Carville last September and had a tour of the hospital, and we were able to meet face to face with the nurses and reduced the fear of having our patients at their hospitals.

Pastoral care is available and provided by the Catholic and protestant chaplains. Rabbis are called for when needed. There is ecumenical spirit between the chaplains as they minister to the patients of the hospital community.

All staff members assist in educating a patient and family members about HD. There are videotapes in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, and it begins to be a problem because we are getting other people, Cambodians and all different kind of Asiatic people that we are trying at this time to get people to come and make tapes in the language of the patient. There's much printed material also available not only for the patient but for the patient's family. Instructions are given in skin care and prevention of injury to both hands and feet.

The hospitals have a school and the younger patients are able to keep up their studies. There are patients who prepare for a GED certificate and we also prepare patients for citizenships. The patients who do not speak English, the foreign patients, we do teach them the English language.

Activity is an important aspect and recreational activities are provided for our patients. There are trips, shopping trips made to Baton Rouge, and this is especially for the handicapped patients and also we have field trips to the zoo and other places of interest. There are picnic grounds or shelter areas and a golf course on the 300 or more acres. There is a bimonthly publication which is called The Star, and perhaps some of you may have had a copy of this. There have been circulation that goes out to all 50 states, 150 foreign countries.

Ongoing clinical and laboratory research is being conducted, educational programs and training is provided in diagnosis and treatment of HD. In 1984 the total number of visitors trained were 2,848. There were 104 international visitors and 42 countries were represented. The National Hansen Disease Center is the only specialized HD hospital in the continental United States. However, there are 13 regional HD centers located in those communities having a significant number of HD patients. Well over 3,000 patients are receiving free HD care at these regional centers, and there is a tie-up where they can get on-the-spot consultation from the staff at the center in Carville.

Hansen's disease cannot be eradicated if a high percentage of people do not receive effective treatment. The disabilities associated with nerve damage will not be prevented unless patients not only have good treatment available to them but also receive it. With the effort of all of the staff at the National Hansen Disease Center, perhaps some day it will be a reality that HD is eradicated.

In conclusion, on behalf of the staff and patients at The National Hansen's Disease Center of Carville, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to all of the members for the many things they have done for our patients. They have given us paddle boats, TV sets, wheelchairs, microwave ovens, all of these things have been—help to making life at Carville just a little bit better. I wish to thank all of you for your continued interest and generosity to our patients. May God bless all of you and your good works. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander **Wilton**. That was truly an informative speech and I hope you learned a lot about Carville. I want to tell you that if the DAV Auxiliary did not have a national program to support this hospital, the DAV and auxiliary in Louisiana would still be supporting it. They gave them a tremendous party at Christmastime. Thank you again, sister, for coming to see us. [Applause.]

Ladies, we need to continue with our program and we would appreciate it if you would all sit down again and thank you so much.

At this time we have a very special guest we would like the sergeant at arms to please escort Department Commander of Maryland, Grant Acker and Department Adjutant, Walter Hyle for a presentation. Please come forward.

[Escorted.]

Walter Hyle. Ladies, I have a confession to make this morning. Up until I entered this room, my first love was DAV. Now I must say it's DAVA. [Applause.]

Women being my first love, it makes me happy to be here. But we're not here to make you feel flattered or anything like that. We're here for a matter of finances, so without any more words to bore you with, I would like to present to you the Department Commander of Maryland, Grant Acker for the purpose of presentation. [Applause.]

Grant Acker. This is probably one of the most pleasant tasks that a department commander has to perform. This is my favorite organization, the ladies auxiliary. God bless you all. [Applause.]

From the land of pleasant living and the home of the Star Spangled Banner, I would like to present to your educational fund a check in the amount of $5,000. [Applause.]

Now, this is the Department of Maryland's continuing effort to support the ladies. We support them at the department and we certainly are going to continue to support them in the national level. We love you all, we can't do without you and God bless you all. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Commander, we truly appreciate your support of the DAV Auxiliary and our educational loan fund. Terrific.

At this time Louise will continue with the prsentation of the hospital awards. Nancy Lawrence from Texas is the hospital convention chairman.

Nancy Lawrence. Good morning, again, ladies.

[Audience responded good morning.]

Nancy Lawrence. The hospital committee met at the Felicity Room at 2:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel on July the 22nd, 1985, New Orleans, Louisiana. All members were present.

I would like to have all of the ladies stand as I call their names off that served on this committee. District 1, Dorothy Young; District 2, Enide Gonzales; District 3, Jean Suiwe; District 4, Alma Stupack; District 5, Elizabeth Overcash; District 6, Melinda Johnson; District 7, Mildred Vyer; District 8, Ernie Covington; District 9, Margaret Robinson; 10, Millie Jillinsa; 11, Marjorie Stone; 12, Nancy Duday; 14, Sharon Crapner; 16, Nelda Morgan; 18, Becky Crawford, and Chairman, Nancy Lawrence and, of course, Adviser Louise Rapisand.

I would like to say thank you ladies very much. It was a privilege working with you and these were very knowledgeable ladies. They worked very hard on these reports. This committee thank you very much. Ladies. [Applause.]

This committee recommended that a detailed explanation on the money spent be attached to this report on the hospital report. Our presentation on our awards in Group No. 1 will be from 10 to 50; Group No. 2, 50 to 100; Group No. 3, 101 to 200; Group No. 4, over 200.

And in group No. 1, which is 10 to 50, the winner is Washington County No. 7, Hillsboro, Oregon. [Applause.]

I will announce the others. Please come forward as I announce. Group No. 2, 51 to 100, Pearl Harbor No. 16, Junction City, Kansas; Group No. 3, 101 to 200 Sonoma County, No. 48, Santa Rose, California; Group No. 4, over 200 Phoenix No. 1, Phoenix, Arizona. [Applause.]

Oregon Delegate. I'm past department commander of the state of Oregon and on behalf of Hillsboro 7, I know these ladies will be very pleased. They are a very, very small group but they are very dynamic. Thank you very much.

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Kansas Delegate. I would just like to say thank you. I'm overwhelmed, speechless. Thank you. [Applause.]

Nancy Lawrence. Next is Santa Rosa, California.

California Delegate. I just want to thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mary Ann Marcus. Ladies, on behalf of Phoenix No. 1 and all of our members of our unit, we would like to thank you for this award.

Nancy Lawrence. Thank you very much. It's been a privilege and an honor to have served on this committee with these ladies and as your chairman. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Thelma is going to give you a little more information on some of our other areas including hospital, and you will recognize them as she goes along.

Thelma.

Thelma Williamson. Thank you, Sally. Well, so much for the membership and the history awards.

The next award is for hospital work. Now, originally these reports included the hours and special services of our members at every hospital throughout the country where our veterans were patients. But now our hospital awards cover the activities of the non VA hospital only. Also included in this is the work that we do at Carville. We have several awards for the VAVS, and I will discuss those a little bit later.

According to our forget-me-not issues and for the benefit of the people who are comparative newcomers to the organization, the forget-me-not was a pamphlet that was published by our national headquarters. It was published monthly. It was a newsletter and this was a very, very good way of getting information to our people throughout the country. It told us a lot of things that were going on and it is from these foreget-me-nots, and I do have a complete set of them. They were published from 1936 until 1968, and I'm delighted to have them because that's where I get a lot of my information about our history.

Now, according to the forget-me-nots prior to World War II, the report of the national hospital chairman was the highlight of every convention and the members eagerly awaited the presentation for the best hospital work. Remember, hospital was our very first chairmanship that we had on the national level in our organization. Presently there are four awards given for non VA service and these are divided according to the membership of our units.

Another area of our work for which awards are given is for our Americanism endeavors. Although patriotism has always been a strong background for our auxiliary it wasn't until the mid thirties that we had a national chairman. A few years later in 1940 an award was added for the unit with the best special Americansim report, which is presented locally and usually in the month of February, when we celebrate the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Americanism reports include our contributions to the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. At the present time we give four awards. Membership is the only one in which we are divided into six. At the present time we give four awards for annual

Americansim activities but only one for the special Americanism program regardless of the size of the individual auxiliary.

Our legislative program goes back to the depression days of 1932 when our parent organization requested our help in trying to persuade Congress to restore benefits to veterans who had been taken off the compensation rolls. These awards are also divided into four categories according to membership, and they include all communications concerning veterans benefits with our congressman, both federal and state.

I'm going to talk about a group of awards and then this next group will be given.

Then we come to our junior programs. Junior members were a part of our DAVA for ten years before they received any recognition at our national conventions. We now have two awards. One to a National Junior Miss to who is between the ages of 14 and 17 and one to the National Teen Junior Miss whose age is from 7 to 13.

Another program, then, is our community service which has qualified for an award since 1952. Prior to that time, community service work was included in the other reports. The information in this report covers the work with other organizations in our communities. For instance, Red Cross, local disaster, disaster assistance, welfare, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church activities and so forth. Now, mere church attendance cannot be counted. You are supposed to do that anyway. Likewise, neither can services given to members of your own family be counted. You would also do that anyway.

Now, I shall continue after this group of awards is given. [Applause.]

Commander **WILTON**. Thank you, Thelma. Is the Americanism chairman ready? Would she please come forward and ladies, we're going to ask you as—we're going to ask our chairmen to announce all of the winners, would you all come forward and then we will allow you time for pictures. Rose Schilpp is our national chairman and Margaret Haas is our convention chairman.

MARGARET HAAS. The Americanism committee, along with our adviser, Rose Schilpp, Third Junior National Vice Commander, met in the Gallier House at two o'clock on Monday afternoon to select the recipient of the Americanism award. In order—in our efforts to do that we did not adjourn until 6:45, and at this time I would like to call my committee to stand so that you are able to thank them.

District 1, Carolyn Kingsley; 2, Sylvia Deceasor; 3, Shirley Copper; 4, Josephine McKoskey; 5, Mabelle Puncell; 6, Gladys Balantine; 7, Mary Keebler; 8, Mary Farmer; 9, Norma Moore; No. 10, Margaret Klute; 11, Carol Ainey; 12, Eileen Morrison; 14, myself, Margaret Haas; 16, Lillian Phalino; 18, Lou Vanders; 20, Katy Kretts.

And Rose Schilpp, our adviser. Thank you. [Applause.]

The awards that were selected are as follows: The special Americanism award, which is an award for the best individual special Americanism program of the year goes to Glendale No. 20, Glendale, Arizona. [Applause.]

We also had an honorable mention in this category, Queen City No. 10, Independence, Missouri. [Applause.]

Group 1 with a membership of 10 to 50, Sarpy County No. 47, Bellevue, Nebraska; Group 2, the membership of 51 to 100, Jim

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Bowie No. 86, Flagler Beach, Florida; Group 3, 101 to 200 membership, Queen City No. 10, Independence, Missouri; Group 4, over 200 membership, Glendale No. 20, Glendale, Arizona. [Applause.]

This is our report respectfully submitted by Margaret Haas, chairman.

Rose Schilpp. It gives me great honor to give you both of these awards. Your unit did a beautiful job on Americanism. You did a lot of work.

Thank you very much on behalf of the American's members of unit 20. This is terrific. Thanks.

It also gives me great honor to give you this award for all of your unit's hard work.

Florida Delegate. I know that the members of Flagler Beach will be very pleased to receive this award. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Rose Schilpp. And also thanks to your unit for the beautiful work they have done on Americanism.

Nebraska Delegate. I would like to thank you for our unit and for all of Nebraska. [Applause.]

Rose Schilpp. Margaret Robinson from Queen City No. 10. That is my hometown. I don't belong to their unit and they have done a beautful job. Thank you, Margaret.

Margaret Robinson. We wish to thank everyone, and I'm certain the members will appreciate this award. Thank you.

Rose Schilpp. As Americanism chairman, I would like to thank all the ladies who worked so hard. I know you felt like it was a lot of time, but on Americanism reports there is a lot of reading, and I know it would be nice if everyone could get an award, but in my book you have all received an award for sending in your reports. So keep up there beautiful work. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. Our national commander of the DAV will be joining us and so we may have to stop here someplace, but at this time we will have our community service awards given. Will the convention chairman please come forward and our national chairman, Shelia Allred. Nancy Carranite is the convention chairman of Ohio. She is past department commander, I'm assumed by now, right Nancy?

Nancy Carranite. Good morning, ladies. Yes, I'm a past commander. I would like to thank Shelia Allred, our committee adviser, and the following ladies would please stand to be recognized. They worked very diligently and thoroughly on these reports.

Donna Horton, District 1; Margaret Deceasor, District 2; Joan Falsey, District 3; Billie Jo Slaycomb, District 4; Hilda Shover, District 5; and Dorothy Davis, District 6; myself from District 7; Netta Foy, District 8; Eleanor Bales, District 9; Zona McNeal, District 10.; Lucille Jonhston, District 11; Phyllis Green, District 12; Agnes Blankenship, District 13; Carmen Rizzy, District 14; Carmen Seatoe, District 16; Mary Marcus, District 18; June Lowell, District 20. [Applause.]

Because there are four groups so far and because of the many reports submitted into the different groups, we found the better interest for national and for the committees.

Kit Seal Feighner: We have an emergency announcement. Mrs. Helen Gee, will you go to the medical room which is 812 immediately. Is she in the room? Helen Gee, G-e-e, if anyone knows her, would they locate her. They need her in the medical room immediately.

Nancy Carranite: Okay. Because of the large amount of reports to be done and the four groups, we found it the better interest of national to divide the ladies into two different groups to do the judging and if there were any problems or questions Shelia Allred was handily there and she did very well.

We have a recommendation. I will do the recommendation thing first and then we'll announce the winners. We have noticed that volunteer hours were transformed into dollar amounts and this is not allowed unless it is for professional services. We had also noticed that some reports had stated hospital work, et cetera, on their reports and it's a shame because there were quite a few eliminated, very good, good reports that were eliminated because of these things. Another area of concern would be that their installations or their unit and chapter functions were included on community service, and this is not allowed because community service is specifically for the community. The auxiliary and chapter in your community, yes, it is for your community but if you are having a conference or a meeting, a special type of dinner specifically for your officers, no, that is not a community item. We had to disqualify an excellent report because of those types of things.

I would suggest when you go back to your units, to have someone go over the reports that are to be submitted to make sure that this type of thing can be eliminated before sent to national and thus not having a unit lose an award.

Please utilize your auxiliary manuals. Every phase—we're just pertaining to community service now. Every phase of community service should be in your auxiliary manual and those are the guidelines by which you do your works. The report there was something that had come up about the report number of working members for each project and this goes for each category. For example, family services is a category and within it, it may have seven to ten projects, so if a lady works one project, say she works ten projects you have that counted ten times for that category. That's a lot of times you will see more than membership going into the totals and you say well, they have 26 members, how can they have 200,000 members working? Well, if one woman works once a month on one project she is counted 12 times for the year. The more people that participate on different things, you may be working, may be doing two things in one week and two times a week times 52 weeks is 104 times a year.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, George M. Rose Unit 50, Washington. [Applause.]

Group 2, 51 to 100, Braden River No. 99, Florida. [Applause.]

Group 3, 101 to 200, Bay Area Unit No. 112, Florida. [Applause.]

Group 4, over 200, South Bend No. 6, Indiana. [Applause.]

Washington Delegate. NEC, I'm accepting for George M. Rose in Washington. They are a small unit but they work very hard and they cover every program. Thank you very much.

Florida Delegate. Braden Rover Unit 99 thanks you and I thank you very much. We're small but we're growing and we're doing a fantastic job.

I know the members of Unit 112 in Florida will be very pleased to receive this award. Thank you very much.

Indiana Delegate. South Bend No. 6 members and myself would like to thank you. [Applause.]

Shelia Allred. As national community service chairman, I want to congratulate all of these units for their hard work. We're very proud of all of their work that you've done. We're pround of all of the units and all of their work they have done. It was a difficult task judging these reports.

Nancy, I would like to say you were an extremely great chairman for that committee, and I want to thank you again for all of your work you've done in community service. [Applause.]

Nancy Carranite. One recommendation that will be passed on since our units are getting rather large throughout the United States. We would recommend that the over 200 be broken down to the discretion of the future chairmen. Thank you, Sally. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Thank you, Shelia and Nancy and your committee.

At this time we will present the junior activity awards. Oh, here comes Judy Utterling, the national junior activities chairman and Mary Clemons, our national convention chairman for junior activities.

Just relax, Mary, we're not going to bite you. They all love you.

Mary Clemons. Commander Sally, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests.

The junior activities committee meeting was held in Room 816, Salon, July the 22nd at two p.m., finished at 5:30, and I think we could have gone on another hour.

All 16 districts were represented. No. 1 was Mary Ann Daley, Massachusetts; No. 2 was Dorothy Bennarsick, New York, Carol NcNeal; No. 3, Pennsylvania, Betty Meredith, Delaware, Helen Schridel, Florida, Mary Foster, M.D., that's Maryland, Ella Latyler, Indiana, Joe Henry, Tennessee District 9; Hattie Cody, District 10, Pauline Bizon; District 11, Alberta Emery; No. 12 was Terry Griffith, Debbie Temple, No. 14; Pat Gorman, No. 16; No. 18, Mary Clemons; and, No. 20, Darlene Conroy. And our adviser was Judith Utterling. [Applause.]

In group 1, 10 to 50 was Russell Lee Hight, Green Bay No. 3, Wisconsin. [Applause.]

On that, though, the committee recommended that on Group 1 that it would read 1 to 50 instead of 10 to 50. On Group 2, 51 to 100, South Bend, Indiana No. 6. [Applause.]

Group 3, 101 to 200, Glendale 20. [Applause.]

Group 4, over 200 was Ft. Wayne, Indiana, No. 1. [Applause.]

Wisconsin Delegate. On behalf of our junior auxiliary from Green Bay, Wisconsin, I would like to thank you for this award. We've got some real hard working little girls. Thank you. [Applause.]

Judy Utterling. Congratulations.

Arizona Delegate. Thank you.

Indiana Delegate. All of the juniors would like to thank you. We're very proud of them. [Applause.]

I'm proud to accept this for Unit 1. Our juniors are very active and as you know at our conventions we keep them busy. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mary Clemons. We had three junior history books. The winner is Russell Lee Hight, No. 3, Green Bay, Wisconsin. [Applause.]

Also it was suggested by the committee that a letter of recommendation be sent to the other two junior units for their history book. It was Lee Nena, N-e-n-a, Lee Nena No. 2, Adrian, Michigan.

Then the Ohio department juniors was the other one. [Applause.]

Wisconsin Delegate. Again, on behalf of our junior auxiliary at Green Bay, Wisconsin, Unit No. 3, we appreciate this award very much. Thank you.

Judy Utterling. Ladies, we got this started this year. This book is fantastic. If there was some way we could set it somewhere that you can look at it. This was all done by hand by the juniors and then whoever did this, this is fantactic.

Mary Clemons. National Teen Junior Miss, age 13 to 17, was Gina Lynn Carroll.

Commander **Wilton.** If you will just wait a minute, we're getting that information for you.

Mary Clemons. I'm sorry. There wasn't no room on the paper so I didn't write it. Colorado Springs, 1650 North Murray Boulevard, 115 Colorado Springs do you want the ZIP, and the chapter is Knob Hill Chapter No. 26. [Applause.]

The National Junior Miss, 7 to 12, and I don't know, we just came out anyway. Leen Ming Carroll in Colorado Springs. We were in a state of shock when we came down and found out we got two sisters. We just didn't know we had done that until it was all over with.

Commander **Wilton.** That's a DAV family, right?

Judy Utterling. I think that's great. Two sisters.

Colorado Delegate. I would like to say thank you. The girls are from our auxilary and they work real hard and they assisted us in a lot of our projects. Thank you on their behalf. [Applause.]

Judy Utterling. Next year I would like to see more scrapbooks brought in. We got three. That's a start, but I would like to see a lot more of the junior scrapbooks come in because these books are fantastic. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Thank you. Thank you. Thank you and I think it's great we got two sisters. That should tell you something about our families. Do we have any guests as yet? I guess not, right, Addie? We might be gone before they get back.

At this time we will give our legislation award. Would the national chairman and the convention chairman, please come forward. Katherine Pearson. Oh, my God, I know who this one is. Helen Hogan is our convention chairman. [Applause.]

Helen Hogan. To the lady in the back row, can you hear me? [Laughter.]

National Commander Sally, national officers.

As I read the members of this committee, I want you ladies in the audience to be very observant as well as the ladies on the podium, and I have a reason for this.

So all my ladies, when I call your names, stand. No. 1, Terry Howard; No. 2 didn't have a representative; No. 3, Ethelrene

Mitchell, Pennsylvania; the other girl was from Rhode Island; No. 4, Louise Jacklyn, Connecticut; No. 5, Helen Hogan, Florida; No. 6, Florence Beaver, Virginia; 7, Esther Houston, Indiana; 8, Maggie Weaver, Mississippi; 9, Goldie Smith, Missouri; 10, Chris Carpenger, Michigan; 11, Marion Wright, Colorado; 12, Selma Candrell, Illinois; 13, Bobbie Morgan, Washington state; 14, Rose Jungers, South Dakota; 16, Evelyn Romirez, California; 18, Barbara Duke, Nevada; 20, Betty Bergman, Texas.

Now, the reason I'm asking you to look at them, the national commander made the remark that we had to get younger ones interested. We had five that were very young and very intelligent and ladies, you deserve a big hand. Thank you. [Applause.]

We don't discuss anything over 29 and that's my age. [Laughter.]

So I must also say, you've got to come up here so she can see you. She is much younger than me. I hate for her to come up here. Our adviser, Katherine Pearson, who let us do our own thing, was willing to answer all questions we asked and had the courtesy to tell us if I don't know the answer, I will find out for you ladies, and Katherine, we thank you kindly.

KATHERINE PEARSON. Thank you.

HELEN HOGAN. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by the chairman. The adviser, Katherine Pearson, was introduced. There were 18 committee women and five guests present. A secretary was elected, Bobbie Morgan from Washington state.

The report form, a blank report form was then passed out and reviewed for either suggestions or recommendations. We then had a review of all reports submitted by every unit. Each was thoroughly reviewed by each member of the committee before any votes were cast. And I might say, the observers stayed in and were asked to leave only when we were ready to cast a vote so that they were not aware of the outcome.

The following suggestions were made for consideration by units. Keep the forms simple, pass forms out for members to look at and review, fill out questionnaires sent to you by your legislative chairman or representatives, don't forget to follow-up with letters of a thank you.

Call your telephone—call your members—oh, Lordy. [Laughter.]

My knees aren't knocking. It's other things. Call your members who are unable to attend meetings, use your telephone. Now, the secretary was very nice. She wrote in her report, you call to chat. My remark was made if you can call and use the telephone to gossip, turn it into a good thing and use it for legislation.

Keep in touch with your House, Senate, local and state representatives and in addition, all veterans groups other than your own. Have more workshops for new members; don't forget to vote. If you do not go out to vote and encourage others to vote, you really don't have the right to gripe and growl when things don't go your way. Have legislative chairman get in touch with the VA, your Senator, Sonny Montgomery, your local representatives and start at city or county level in regards to handicapped or whatever is needed.

Most important, talk about and thoroughly discuss legislation at each meeting. Do not send reproduced form letters. They go to file 13, which is where my mail goes when it's on a printed whatever.

Write a letter, your punctuation and spelling aren't that important. They need to know you care and you vote. [Laughter.]

And for Maria Tedrow, when I was department chairman, legislation, I said to the ladies from the podium as I was asking them to vote, I said you know I hate this program. She said, oh, my Lord, nobody ever says things like that. But I told Katherine yesterday and I told the Department of Florida, once you get involved, it's like everything else, it just swallows you right up. [Laughter.]

I'm going to call the winners out and if you will all come up, we'll straighten you out after you get up here.

In the groups 10 to 50, Mountain Top No. 29, Maryland. [Applause.]

51 to 100, William M. Stone Unit 74, North Carolina. [Applause.]

Group No. 3, 100 to 200, Concord 27, North Carolina. [Applause.]

Over 200, Glendale, Arizona, Unit 20. [Applause.]

Step lively, girls.

10 to 50, Mountain Top 29, state of Maryland.

KATHERINE PEARSON. I congratulate you.

HELEN HOGAN. Congratulations. You are allowed to say something if you like. Keep it short.

MARYLAND DELAGATE. All right, ladies. I've been told to keep it short. I'm the department commander, and I want to accept this award for the ladies at Mountain Top. And they are very special, hard-working ladies and I just can't wait to give it to them. Thank you.

HELEN HOGAN. 51 to 100, William M. Stone 74, state of North Carolina.

PANSY CUNDIFF. Thank you. Pansy Cundiff, past commander, Department of North Carolina. I am proud to accept this award on behalf of unit 74. Thank you. [Applause.]

HELEN HOGAN. 101 to 200, Concord, 27, state of North Carolina.

SHELIA ALLRED. I'm really excited about this and this is my unit and my mother was the unit legislative chairman and she is going to be thrilled to death and Helen Hogan is a member of our unit too.

HELEN HOGAN. But I didn't vote.

Over 200, Glendale No. 20, Arizona.

ARIZONA DELEGATE. Thank you. We're very pleased to accept this. I must say perhaps we got a little bit selfish. I think our ladies worked just a little bit harder. Thank you very, very much. [Applause.]

HELEN HOGAN. To Katherine Pearson, me, as well as the committee, say thank you much.

And thank you. [Applause.]

KATHERINE PEARSON. I would just like to say that they were one great committee to work with. The thumb up here showed what we were doing in that committee all afternoon. Thank you, girls. [Applause.]

COMMANDER WILTON. Thelma, please come forward.

THELMA WILLIAMSON. The next group of awards includes the plaques for our VAVS work and three of them are in the names of ladies, all of whom are past national commanders.

Now, many people have asked questions about them, not the ladies themselves, but they want to know why we call the awards in their names and so I will try to explain to you.

When the first VAVS award was made in 1953 only one trophy was presented at the national conventions. Our VAVS work group. more and more of our ladies were going to the hospitals, to the VA hospitals and working with the patients there. So six years later they decided to give two awards and they decided to name one of these in honor of Beatrice Hogan, a past national commander who had been a member of the original VAVS advisory board when it was first conceived in 1946 right after World War II, and she stayed in that position from 1946 until 1954 and she only gave it up then because we needed her to be security chairman.

She was living in an area in Washington, D.C., so we called one of the trophies the Beatrice Hogan award and then we had the award given by national headquarters.

Now, again, our organization kept growing and participation in the VAVS increased and we needed to give more recognition to those who were putting so much time in our hospitals. In 1961 at the national convention, past national commander Violet Hoffmann offered to donate, personally, a traveling trophy for a third award so we could have three divisions. Then this award was known as the Vi Hoffmann award.

And the following year, past national commander Catherine Early declared she thought we needed even a fourth one, so she said she would donate a trophy and divide the VAVS work into four groups.

We have in the audience today Catherine Early, and I would like for Catherine to stand. Catherine is from Texas. She was unable to be [applause]: Catherine was unable to be with us last convention and we are delighted that she's here. Catherine was our national commander during 1953 and 1954 and her name is listed on page 63 of your constitution and by laws.

Now, that same year, 1962 seemed to have been a good year for people to offer to do things. That same year past national commander Thelma Feighner stated that she would donate a trophy for presentation to the unit which was located too far away from any VA hospital for regular scheduled volunteers but instead provided gifts and money to help with the VAVS activities, and that's the reason we call this the Thelma Feighner award.

Now, did you hear that last name? Feighner? I'm sure you've heard it many times at this convention. For those of you who are still wondering, she is a relative. She is the mother of—was, is—whatever, of Jack Feighner who is married to our national adjutant, Kit Seal Feighner. [Applause.]

Thelma Feighner was also a national commander, so you see it's really a DAV and a DAV Auxiliary family. We're glad to have the name of Feighner back in our organization.

Now, so much for the VAVS awards. I hope you understand why we use these names now.

We have one other award given in the name of an individual member of the DAVA and this is the Mae Holmes. Mae Holmes was also a past national commander or is. Mae Holmes is still living. She was originally from Michigan but she is now living in Florida.

When she was national commander, in her travels around the country she noticed that many units were making outstanding contributions in every phase of our work, yet they never got an award for any of the individual parts of it but they did participate in each activity. To remedy this, she offered to give a trophy to the unit with the best participation in all areas of our program. So this one is given in memory—in honor, rather, because she is still living—in honor of Mae Holmes.

Now, not only did Ms. Holmes initiate the award but she also suggested a plan to determine the winner. Each national executive committeewoman would select the best history reports, the best three from those submitted to her by every unit in her district. Then each NEC would present these to a special committee at the national convention to select the winner. And this is known as the Mae Holmes award.

As I stated before, all traveling trophies have now been retired. And we give plaques now in place of them but we still maintain the names of these ladies who continue to serve after their term of national commander was over.

I think we will have the VAVS awards now, and I will conclude after that.

Commander WILTON. National VAVS Chairman, Louise Ellis and her deputy Bonnie Newell and our convention chairman, Claudia Roy.

Claudia, we will have your convention committee report first.

CLAUDIA ROY. Good morning.

National Commander Sally, national officers, past national commander, delegates and guests.

The VAVS committee met Monday, July 22nd, at two p.m. in the Evergreen Room at the Hotel Sheraton for the purpose of judging the VAVS reports.

Serving on this committee were—and if you ladies would please stand as I call your name. District No. 2, Claudia Roy; District No. 4, Josephine Senack; District No. 5, Juanita Newell; District No. 7, Mary McDowell; District No. 8, Norma Henry; District No. 9, Pauline Carmen; District No. 10, Betty Schultz; District No. 11, Lee Darling; District No. 12, Loretta Lovelace; District No. 14, Labonne Trollson; District 15, Pauline Woodsty; District 18, Norma Gould; District No. 20, Margaret Reynolds; and chairman, Claudia Roy, District No. 1. Our adviser was Louise Ellis, the national VAVS representative and Bonnie Newell, the national deputy. These ladies deserve a lot of credit for their work. [Applause.]

Thank you. The reports certainly reflect the many hours and dollars that are given to the VAVS program, therefore it was a very difficult decision for the committee to arrive at a winner in the various categories but after much deliveration they did.

The committee does have one recommendation, that the travel hours on our VAVS reports be deleted. We do not feel it should be used in judging our reports for it is really an estimated figure. Many thanks to all you ladies who served on this committee. We appreciate your dedication. Thank you to Deputy Bonnie and especially a lot of thanks to our Representative Louise. She was really just great. Louise. Thank you very much.

Louise Ellis. I would like to say one thing. I would like to say one thing. Volunteers make the difference and volunteers can make dreams come true but I call you our VAVS angels. Tomorrow at the session, VAVS session you will see why I call you our angels. You are terrific and I love you all. [Applause.]

Claudia Roy. The Catherine Early award, 10 to 50 members, Chackawatchee Unit 102, Bonifay, Florida.

The Vi Hoffmann Award, 51 to 100 members, Corporal Louie C. Goy Unit 93, Seminole, Florida.

The Bee Hogan award, 101 to 200 members, Wyandotte Unit No. 1, Kansas City, Kansas.

The national headquarters award, 201 members and over, Phoenix Unit No. 1, Phoenix, Arizona. [Applause.]

And the special award, the Thelma Feighner award, which is the award that is given to the unit that's too far to travel from the VA hospital is the Smart Richer award—Smart Richer Unit No. 10, Presque Isle, Maine. [Applause.]

Catherine Early, 10 to 50 members, Chackawatchee Unit 102, Bonifay, Florida.

Louise Ellis. I'm very happy to present this award because I know what work they have done. Thank you.

Florida Delegate. On behalf of Bonifay, I would like to say thank you for this award and for all of our VAVS volunteers in Florida. We have five VAVS hospitals and two states that we have associate reps in and they do a fantastic job in the state of Florida in the VAVS program. Thank you. [Applause.]

Claudia Roy. The Vi Hoffmann award, 51 to 100 members, Corporal Louie C. Coy Unit No. 93, Seminole, Florida.

Florida Delegate. Thank you. I know that the members and Ellis Mark, which is unit No. 93 will be very pleased to receive this award. They worked very hard and I know that they will be pleased. Thank you very much.

Claudia Roy. The Bee Hogan award, 101 to 200 members, Wyandotte Unit No. 1, Kansas City, Kansas.

Louise Ellis. I'm happy to present this award to them.

I know in reading these reports I have over 1,200 but let me tell you, I went through them and these ladies did a terrific job. Thank you.

Kansas Delegate. As Department of Kansas commander, I am privileged to accept this award for Wyandotte County No. 1. [Applause.]

Claudia Roy. National headquarters award, 201 and over, Phoenix Unit No. 1, Phoenix, Arizona.

Louise Ellis. We're very happy on this one. I know what these ladies did and they are a terrific group of ladies, and I would like to say that Phoenix, Arizona, VA Medical Center rated top in the nation with over 23,000 hours. They passed Florida. Florida came in second, so you see why our group of ladies, all of you are terrific. [Applause.]

Mary Ann Marcus. I'm sorry, ladies. I didn't means to cough in your face. We owe a very big thanks to this lady that's standing right behind me, Louise Ellis. She is our unit VAVS chairman. She is a state representative and she also is the national representative and without Louise we wouldn't have gotten this award, and I want to make sure that everybody knows how hard Louise works. She does everything and she gives 150 percent of her time to VAVS and I think we owe her a round of applause. [Applause.]

Claudia Roy. And the Thelma Freighner award, too far to travel, Smart Richer Unit No. 10, Presque Isle, Maine.

Maine Delegate. As past department commander of Maine, it just thrills me to pieces to accept this award because they are a long, long distance away. They live way up in the northern part of the state of Maine, just about 12 miles from the border of Canada, and I'm just thrilled to pieces and I know that they will be. Thank you very much.

Louise Ellis. Ladies, we need all of you. If you help any youths this summer when they are out of school, get them involved in volunteer because they are our volunteers of tomorrow, some of us are getting older and we will not be there and we need replacements, so get them involved now while they can be interested in it. Please.

Commander **Wilton.** Thank you, Louise, Bonnie, Claudia, and all of this committee and all of you ladies out there who are volunteers. We are proud of you.

At this time we have a very, very special guest. Would the national sergeant at arms please escort the national commander Chad Colley to the podium.

[Escorted.]

Commander **Wilton.** I will hold this just a minute, Chad. Ladies, as I told you at the opening session, if I could have chosen anyone to work with as national commander, I would have chosen Chad. I have truly been proud to be with him and to serve the DAV, and he has given so much for this great country of ours. Please join with me in a standing ovation. Thank you. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Chad Colley. Thank you, Commander Sally, the elected officers of the national auxiliary, to your staff.

I want you to know I feel a whole lot better in here than I do in there, up there with all of those hairy legged guys. [Applause.]

I am so proud of the numbers of delegates that you have registered at this convention. It is significant in the fact that whatever achievement the DAV has had this year, it's been because together we can and we did make a difference and I appreciate that so very much.

This last year is one of the most phenomenal years in the DAV history. I don't think anyone would take issue with describing it that way. Let me tell you what I really believe in my heart. I believe next year is going to be the most phenomenal year in the history of the DAV Auxiliary and I'll tell you why, we've had bold, far-reaching leadership.

I thought a bunch when she started talking about 150,000. Did you hear her say a million. I mean that's bold thinking, and let me tell you what, that's the kind of thinking that is going to move this organization to the greatest year the auxiliary has ever had and its going to be next year, and I'll tell you what, I'll be happy to come to meet you in Reno and let you say you were right because I really believe it down deep in my heart. [Applause.]

I see it almost anywhere I go, from your national auxiliary adjutant so bubbly about some programs that they are going to implement. I haven't seen that much excitement since when she introduced Jack at the mid-winter meeting. If she has that kind of excitement, then I know it's going to carry over into the staff and through the line. I'm very proud for you. You know I told the ladies or I have different places I've gone that I believe you need to be bold. You need to be aggressive. You do not need to apologize for what you do if it's in the best interest of your organization and in the best interest of the DAV. I think you ought to strike out in new directions. I think that as I've told you the greatest single reason for a lady to be a member of the auxiliary is not what it's going to do for her husband. Her biggest reason for joining the auxiliary is what it's going to do for her. Please sell that in your membership. [Applause.]

Women today have a new sense of importance and self worth. Your organization has this commitment to that feeling, so please make it bear fruit in all of the units across this country. I want you to know that it's been a true, true delight to serve in the capacity as I have and had the opportunity to meet with your women and leadership positions and your unit members and the staff of your organization. You know it's just priceless. It defies description to me.

I am encouraged by what you do. I have never, ever asked anything of an auxiliary member that she did not do it or do her very best, given her best effort to accomplish what I've asked. I now will sure make one heck of a good chapter commander because I fully appreciate the work of the auxiliary. I suspected it but in this last year I've really come to appreciate you for all that you are capable of doing.

I wish you my very best. You have my blessings and my prayers. Thank you for being special ladies for me. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander WILTON. Chad, thank you so much. Thank you for being a very good friend. Come back, Chad. I know we'll welcome you again next year.

BEE PULIO. Madam commander, our Exalted Cat is sitting in a wheelchair but on behalf of Eileen Billidue, the Exalted Golden Cat and the National Order of Alley Cats, I wish at this time to present to the auxiliary, earmarked for the educational loan fund, a check in the amount of $1,375.11. [Applause.]

Then we have another check earmarked this time for Freedom's Foundation for $250. [Applause.]

Commander WILTON. Ladies, the Alley Cats are a great supporter of our auxiliary and not everybody in this room or in the DAV auxiliary can belong to them because you have to be an outstanding worker in the DAV Auxiliary, and we truly appreciate your gifts that you give each year.

Now, for one and a half minutes or that many seconds, I don't want anybody to move. We have about three, I believe we have three more things to finish. I'm going to call a 15-minute recess and don't move. I'm going to ask that the national officers be allowed to step out of the room first and then you may stand up, relax, enjoy yourself, go to the bathroom, have a cigarette or whatever you want to do. We're going to come back and finish and then we will be done for the day. [Applause.]

[A recess was held at 12:15 p.m.]

[Meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.]

Commander **Wilton**. Ladies, if you will please be seated, we will get started, so we can get finished up and you can have some free time and I can go take a nap.

At this time our educational loan fund director will announce the amount we have collected today.

Phyllis.

Phyllis Greaney. Today the total amount of what was given and collected was $20,261.22. Thank you kindly everyone.

Commander **Wilton**. Thelma, if you are ready, we will give you your minute, please.

Thelma Williamson. I promise I won't take long, but before I start, I would like to say I forgot another—something about the Feighner family. Jack Feighner, the husband of Kit—I told you about his mother, Thelma Feighner. I neglected to tell you about his father. For a long time, he was assistant adjutant of the DAV and then he was adjutant for a while. He was adjutant immediately before Denville Adams so that's how much of a DAV-DAVA family this is.

Now, I'm going to talk about somebody else who is in that family too. Before I finish with the awards and I'm almost through, believe me, I would like to mention another award presented at our national convention. However, this is not an auxiliary award. It's a DAV award, which is made to an auxiliary member, and I'm referring to the George H. Seal memorial trophy. As you know, George was the beloved husband of Kit and this was set up in his memory the year after George passed away. The winner of this prestigious award this year, as you noticed on Sunday afternoon, is Connie Rohr. Is Connie Rohr in the room? Well, I am so proud of Connie.

I was a member of the selection board and her resume was absolutely beautiful, but knowing Connie as I do, I'm sure they did not get all of the things that Connie does. Neverless, I was so delighted to know that she had won the award. I was very pleased. I'm sorry she is not here. I know she's going to continue doing that work as long as she can get up and sell those newspapers and then go to the hospital. I think she is certainly to be congratulated.

Now, I would like to say that people who are here know what happens at our national conventions. Even if this is your first one, you are getting into the swing of it by now. You know what we do and, of course, you know you are going to have more. We will have the elections on Thursday but do you know what happened when we did not have a national convention? There was only one convention and that one was in 1942. This one was postponed because of the war.

Now, if you will come to the fall conference October the 17th to the 19th, I'm going to talk about that year. I have letters that came in. I know what happened only because people sent the information to me. They didn't know what they had when they were sending it. They didn't know I was even interested in it, but I found some interesting information that I would like to pass along to you, and so

I hope to see as many of you as possible in Cincinnati at the fall conference. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Thelma, thank you so much. You have given our new members and I'm sure a lot of our old, older members a lot of information. That's been very appreciated by me.

We overlooked one of our awards this morning. We were doing the history. We did not do the history book, and I would like to introduce National Historian, Pat Schroeder, National Convention Chairman, Betty Slaycom.

Pat Schroeder. National Commander Sally, past national commanders, national officers, delegates and guests.

As history chairman I received 1,197 reports. Of these 71 were postmarked after May 17th. Sixteen were not signed by a unit commander—sixteen were not signed by anyone. Eleven were not signed by the unit commander and 276 were not signed by a history chairman. This made a total of 303 reports that were automatically disqualified.

I think most of you know, I hope you know, if you don't have a history chariman, the unit commander can sign as history chairman but she has to sign in both places.

Our committee began promptly at 2:00 p.m. yesterday and the last of us finally left at 6:45. We had 24 unit books to judge and 14 department books. The ladies who served on this committee worked hard and diligently and are to be commended for their efforts. I lost my place.

I would like to introduce the ladies of this committee, and would you please stand until I'm through. Unit No. 1, Clara Moore and Rita Mutuatelli. I had no one from District 2 or 3. District 4, Mildred Bennarink and Betty Slaycom; District No. 5, Ramona Lane and Mary Jane Evans; District No. 6, Iva Irwin and Connie Foster; District 7, Carol Doozo; District 8, Joan Jackson and Nelly Doles; District No. 9, Virginia Alfred and Marie Reddenour; District No. 10, Mary Jo Matteroski, I hope, and Lucille Griffin; District No. 11, Flossie Kemp and Connie Mitchell; District No. 12, Carlene Beltman; District No. 13 Irene Clauce; District 14, Marie Dougherty and Cassie Gittens; District 16, Ann Ross and Britrell Britain; District 18, Bee Gibson and Florence Younger; District 20, Connie Beyanies and Carlene Melvin. These ladies worked, and I mean they worked. The ladies—we kind of divided them, and I think I had twelve ladies working on reports. [Applause.]

Pat Schroeder. I think the ladies working on reports thought when they got done they could leave but they got fooled. They got put on books. As has happened many times in the past, we had some very hard decisions to make. Several of the books ended in ties so again we had to go back and really nit-pick and it was awfully hard to do.

I would now like to introduce your convention chairman, Betty Slaycom, and she would like to announce the winners.

Betty Slaycom. Thank you, Pat.

Ladies, I'm new at this. It was a complete surprise to me yesterday. I think if there was a hole back there, I could have fell through it yesterday morning when Kit announced my name.

For the history awards, Group 1, 10 to 50 was Cave Junction No. 44 from Oregon. Would you please come forward, please. [Applause.]

These are reports. Group 2, 51 to 100, Egyptian Gateway No. 76, Illinois. 101 to 200 is S.R. Pine No. 20, Oregon; Group 4, over 200, Glendale No. 20, Arizona; Cave Junction No. 44, Oregon; and S.R. Pine No. 20, Oregon.

Oregon Delegate. Thank you very much. I will accept these on the behalf of the S.R. Pine No. 20 at Brookings and Cave Junction. They are down in the very southern part of our state and I guess they work hard down there. Thank you. [Applause.]

Betty Slaycom. Gateway No. 76.

Illinois Delegate. As commander of the Department of Illinois, I'm proud to accept this for Unit 76. I'm sure they will be very proud and happy to receive it. Thank you.

Betty Slaycom. Glendale No. 20.

Arizona Delegate. Thank you very much. We sure worked hard for this. [Applause.]

Betty Slaycom. Congratulations.

Unit history books, Group 1, 10 to 50, Stanwood No. 50, Washington. [Applause.]

Group 2, 51 to 100, Titusville No. 109, Florida; Group 3, 101 to 200, Lakeland No. 20, Florida; Group 4, over 200, Goshwin Memorial No. 15, Indiana. [Applause.]

Stanwood No. 50.

Washington Delegate. Thank you from Stanwood, Washington. They are going to be so surprised. Thank you very much.

Florida Delegate. On behalf of Titusville 109, I'm proud to accept this award and especially because the book belongs to my mother.

Betty Slaycom. Lakeland No. 28.

Florida Delegate. We're very proud of this. This is the first time that we've ever submitted a history book and I would like to introduce my history chairman, Rita Rust. Thank you so much.

Betty Slaycom. Goshwin Memorial No. 15.

Indiana Delegate. As commander of Unit 15, I want to thank everybody. This is my first time. I'm scared to death. I would especially like to thank my sister. She is my history chairman I really appreciate it. Thank you all. [Applause.]

Betty Slaycom. Now, to the department history books. This was a toughy. If the units were tough, this was the toughies.

Department of Kansas was the book with 100 percent. [Applause.]

The Department of Wisconsin, 99 and a half percent. [Applause.]

And Tennessee, 98 and a half percent. [Applause.]

Kansas Delegate. As commander of the Department of Kansas, this is an honor and I wish the lady who made this book was here. She just made our books for the last three years, and we have won, I think it was two years ago and then last year we were runner-up, so this is really an honor for us. [Applause.]

Betty Slaycom. Congratulations.

Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Delegate. On behalf of our immediate past auxiliary department commander of Wisconsin, Carmen March, a beautiful and hard-working gal, I would like to accept this award. That was her book.

Betty Slaycom. And Tennessee.

Tennessee Delegate. On behalf of Tennessee, we thank you. [Applause.]

Betty Slaycom. Thank you.

Pat Schroeder. Again, I would like to thank the ladies for all of their hard work. It was a real pleasure working with them.

Kit, Maria, and the national staff, you have been invaluable help to me. You know that.

Sally, thank you for the honor. It has been a very great pleasure serving you in any way I can. Thank you.

Commander **Wilton.** Thank you, Pat, chairman, and all of the ladies who worked on these awards.

We are now ready for the Mae Holmes award. Let's see, Betty Wimmer has served as advisor to this committee and Louise Avery, past department commander of California, has been the convention chairman.

Louise Avery. National Commander Sally, national officers, delegates and guests.

The Mae Holmes committee met in the Edgewood Room at 2:00 p.m. yesterday under the advisement of Betty Wimmer, and I must say it was a joy to work with Betty, even though she was late.

And I want to apologize for missing the greatest moment of my life this morning. I understand and I saw my award for signing up the most members. I had a touch of your Southern hospitality, so I had to stay in my room for a while.

Those that worked on the committee were Marie Gatbois. Would you ladies stand when I call your names, please. Alexandria Sellers, Marion Potter, Marge Duffy, Louise Davis, Virginia Ward, Elaine Ebash, Elaine Reagan, Jan Beshell, Jolene Askew, Toni Lee Sainger, June Abbott, Shirley Larson, Pat Eagle, Joyce Die and myself, Lousie Avery. Give them applause, ladies. [Applause.]

You know, this is a very, very hard committee to work on. We had some fantastic reports submitted. You get into these reports and you see $24,000, $25,000 that was spent on a community service and these people didn't make their quota. So, of course, they had to be disqualified. That is sad. This was a lot of our first year's work on this committee. We had heard it for a long time but we really didn't know what it entailed and now we do, and believe me, my little unit in California was submitted and I felt proud just to be submitted into this committee even though we didn't win an award; but believe me, I'm going to go back and try real hard next year and maybe we'll win it too.

Our awards for under 100, S.R. Pine No. 20, Brookings, Oregon. [Applause.]

And over 100, Glendale 20, Arizona. [Applause.]

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to present this to you, dear. I know you worked hard for it.

Oregon Delegate. On behalf of S.R. Pine 20, I thank you very much. I know these ladies have worked very hard, and they are going to be very proud to receive this. Thank you. [Applause.]

Louise Avery. Betty will present the next award.

Betty Wimmer. Becaue the committee worked so hard, she was such an excellent chairman, I just felf that it was—give her the opportunity to present one and I would present the other. Girls, we owe—I'm tongue-tied. You two are getting me nervous. I never get nervous but I present this to you because I know having spoke with so many of your girls what a fine job you do.

Congratulations.

Arizona Delegate. For the 500 members of Glendale 20 unit, I want to thank the national organization. I want to thank our girls for their hard work and I want to thank the City of Glendale for giving us such an excellent place to live and to work and for supporting us while we support them, and it's just a terrific place to be and this is a terrific place to be. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

I would just like to say we've come back to convention year after year and worked so hard and started with one award and so forth, and as you know, we've done very well this morning. And last year when we won the Mae Holmes award, which I had coveted as a personal award for many, many years, last year when we won it, I thought it was a happening. But this year there ain't no doubt about it. Thank you. [Applause.]

Louise Avery. Thank you, ladies and congratulations.

We did have two recommendations to come out of this committee. The committee had an awful hard time judging these reports because of the membership. You have 101 members competing with 1,000 members, and we felt that this was an awful hard thing to do, so we are recommending that you evenly divide this into three membership groups for the Mae Holmes award.

Another one we felt that there should be a space in there to tell us if they are a newly chartered unit or not.

That's all. Betty, would you like to say something at this time?

Betty Wimmer. The consensus of opinion from all of the members serving on that committee from all of the districts were that there are going to be many, many, many, many more good reports for next year. We're going to be watching. Thanks. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Thank you, Betty. I know that's a hard job and you don't even know you are going to do it until you get here, and Louise, thank you and your committee for the work you have done.

We will now have our finance committee report. Lillian Shumski is the chairman of this.

Lillian Shumski. National Commander Sally, national officers, past national commanders, national executive committeewomen, department officers, delegates and guests.

The national finance committee met during the fall conference on November 2nd, 1984, at the Holiday Inn Eastgate in Cincinnati, Ohio. All members were present including our National Judge Advocate, Lucille McCarthy; National Adjutant, Kit Seal Feighner; and, Assistant National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow.

The balance sheet, income and expense sheet for the period of January 1, 1984, through June 30th, 1984, was reviewed by the committee. These sheets had been prepared by the auditing firm of Deloit, Haskins & Sells.

The committee met again on Monday, April 15th, 1985, at national headquarters in Cole Springs, Kentucky. All members were present as well as our national judge advocate, Lucille McCarthy; our national adjutant L. Kit Seal Feighner; assistant national adjutant, Maria Tedrow; and, senior vice commander, Betty Wimmer.

We received the income and expense sheet, the balance sheet for life membership and from these figures the budget for the 1986 was based on 110,000 senior members.

The committee also met at convention on Saturday, July 20th, at 8:00 p.m. We reviewed the balance sheet of income and expenses for the period January 1st, 1985, to June 30th, 1985. The full committee was present.

If you are wondering why I keep repeating these wonderful names of L. Kit Seal Feighner, Lucille McCarthy and Maria Tedrow on this committee, if you look at that balance sheet, you will know that we needed a little help on figuring out those balances and all, and without their help we may have been staying in Cincinnati for a week or two or even a month, but with their help, we were very fortunate to get through our balance sheets.

The pages have passed out to each of you a copy of the balance sheet, income and expense sheet as well as a copy of the proposed budget for 1986.

It has been an honor and a pleasure serving our national finance committee for the past two years. The committee worked diligently and worked well together in preparing the proposed budget for 1986. Those serving on the national finance committee are—and would you please stand as I read your name—National Commander Sally Wilton; Stella Gnatek, NEC from District 2; Josephine Vigin, NEC from District 11; Margie Anderson, NEC from District 14; Lucille McCarthy, our national judge advocate; L. Kit Seal Feighner, our national adjutant and secretary of the finance committee; and Maria Tedrow, assistant national adjutant. Would you please give them a hand because they really helped us work. [Applause.]

The staff at national headquarters are super ladies. They are dedicated people and do a great job. They also prepared a wonderful buffet luncheon for us while we were at national headquarters, and we really want to thank them for their cooperation and their warm hospitality.

Commander Sally, since all of the delegates have received a copy of the proposed budget for 1986. I move the adoption of this budget.

Commander WILTON. A motion has been made to accept the budget. Do I hear a second?

STELLA GNATEK. Commander Sally, Stella Gnatek, NEC from District 2, I second that motion.

Commander WILTON. Is there any discussion? Would you please go to the microphone.

LEONA SHARP. Leona Sharp, Department of Michigan. I would just like to question why are we taking $1,300 out of the educational loan fund for meetings instead of the general fund now? That's almost enough money for two more students.

Commander WILTON. Well, we do have to bring our ladies into Cincinnati for this meeting. Who is fresher here?

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Because the auditor said that any program we have, such as educational loan fund, the expenses for that program must come out of educational loan fund. This can come out of your mandate money too.

If we have—whenever the legislative committee, whenever we go to Washington for the legislative, the commander's expense is charged to the legislative. If she goes to a VAVS national meeting, her expenses plus the national VAVS chairman are charged to the VAVS program. Whenever you have a program, the expenses for that program must come out of that fund, and that's the way it's budgeted.

LEONA SHARP. That's sort of IRS more or less?

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Yes, and it's by the auditors of Deloit, Haskins & Sells, and they charge us some $6,000, I believe to audit these books.

Commander **WILTON.** Are there any other questions? If there are no other questions, all in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **WILTON.** Opposed?

Motion carried.

LILLIAN SHUMSKI. I do have a recommendation. The finance committee does have a recommendation.

They recommend that national will send a national representative to only one conference in those districts that have more than one conference a year. At the state conference your NEC will be your representative.

Commander **WILTON.** A recommendation has been made that any district will have only one national officer sent for their district meetings. Would anyone like to make a motion to this effect? It is a recommendation.

Would you come to the microphone, please.

Florence Daley, past national commander.

FLORENCE DALEY. Florence Daley, past national commander. So move that motion.

Commander **WILTON.** Do I hear a second?

MARGIE ANDERSON. Margie Anderson, District 14 NEC, I second the motion.

Commander **WILTON.** Any discussion? All in favor.

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **WILTON.** Opposed?

[Audience responded no.]

The motion carried.

That's all right. I like to hear a few noes out there. We know you are awake when you are listening.

We are not ready for the first reading of the constitution and bylaws. There will be no discussion on the first reading. The convention chairman is Jean Howard from Kentucky.

VIRGINIA MITCHELL. Madam Commander, Virginia Mitchell, Unit 80, Alabama. We had another recommendation, I believe from the committee. Are we going to just ignore that one?

Commander **WILTON.** What was the other recommendation?

VIRGINIA MITCHELL. That the NEC represent national at——

Commander **WILTON.** Sorry about that. Your commander should have included that with the—but let's do that now because we want to make—that recommendation was made. It was that any state meetings that your—I don't mean your state meetings, state conferences.

Virginia Mitchell. Virginia Mitchell, Unit 80, Alabama. I move that the national executive committee woman from the district represent national at these state functions.

Commander Wilton. Do I hear a second? Do you understand what we're saying?

Virginia Mitchell. On the functions, would you clarify the word, please.

Commander Wilton. Yes. There are some states who have districts within the state, such as New York, who is all alone. They have their own NEC, and we feel that NECs should be able to chair these meetings in her own state and take care of any problems in that area.

Is there a second to this motion?

Arbie Madowell. Arbie Madowell, Lambert 54, I second that.

Commander Wilton. Is there any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed?

Kit Seal Feighner. Can I say something?

Commander Wilton. The motion carried. Neither one of you were very loud, but I heard many more yeses.

Kit Seal Feighner. We don't want you to be confused. Whenever a state wants a national commander for any event, even a state conference and their district meeting, whatever, this doesn't apply for your national commander to be your national representative. Many states have spring conferences, fall conferences. Then they have district meetings, and we felt that when the state itself is having something like that, the NEC should be the ones to represent them.

Commander Wilton. The motion carried.

Now, we're not talking about state conventions. You know that you will have a national representative there. You didn't ask any questions, so I hope you understand what we're doing because we're not trying to railroad anything through on this floor.

All right, Jean, we're ready for the first reading of the constitution and bylaw committee.

As I said, there is no discussion on this first reading, and please be attentive and this will be the last thing on the program other than door prizes, but you have got to stay for those. If you are going to the potty, come back.

Jean Howard. National Commander Sally, national officers, delegates and guests.

The constitutional and bylaws committee convened at 2:00 p.m., July 22nd, 1985, in the Rosella Room of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

All members were present. The members of the committee who worked diligently and conscientiously are—and as I call their name, would they please stand. Althea Huffman, District 1; Delese Paublisky, District 2; Virginia Hartman, District ; Loretta Kitchard, District 4; Myrtice Vinson, District 5; Patricia DeMartini, District 6; Jean Howard, District 7; Inez Sims, District 8; Elaine Morgan, District 9; Margaret Baumgardner, District 10; Erline Ortiese, District 11; Mary Ann Orray, District 12; Florence Gallatin, District 13; Merrium Kaiser, District 14; Vera Davis, District 16; Donna Sanders, District 18; and Hazel Neal, District 20.

The following proposed changes are recommended for your approval by the committee, Jean Howard, chairman, Donna Sanders, secretary and national judge advocated, Lucille McCarthy, adviser.

I can read fast or I can read slow.

[Audience responded read fast.]

Jean Howard. Proposed constitution and by-law changes, page one.

No. 1. Page 6, Article III, Section 7, paragraph 2, now reads: "the national executive committee shall elect on the finance committee two (2) national executive committeewomen from the seven numbered districts in the even numbered years for a two (2) year term and two national executive committeewomen from the odd-numbered districts in the odd numbered years. Vacancies for an unexpired term shall be filled by election by the national executive committee from its members provided herein above."

Amend by changing "seven" to "even." The third line.

No. 2. Page, Article V, Section 1, line 5, now reads: "Executive committeewomen (or her alternate) from each district."

Amend by changing "committeewomen" to "committeewoman."

Page 8, Article V, Section 1, line 5 would then read as amended: "Executive committeewoman (or her alternate) from each district."

Page 8—this is No. 3—I beg your pardon. Article V, Section 1, last sentence now reads: "Seven shall constitute a quorum." Amend by deleting the last sentence and inserting the following: "A majority (more than half) of all eligible voting members of the national executive committee shall constitute a quorum."

No. 4. Page 8, Article V, Section 2, now reads: "Among the responsibilities of each national executive committeewoman shall be the establishment of new auxiliaries in her district. Also, to compile a report of activities in her district for the years."

Amend by deleting an entire section and inserting a new section to read: "Among the responsibilities of each national executive committeewoman shall be to help establish new auxiliaries in her district and to compile a report of activities in her district for the year."

Page 9, Article V, Section 5, first paragraph now reads: "Districts are established identical with those of the Disabled American Veterans." Amend by deleting present paragraph No. 1 and inserting new paragraph No. 1 to read: "The following National Districts are established as identical with those of the Disabled American Veterans, effective at the close of the 1985 National Convention."

Page 9, Article V, Section 5, first paragraph would then read as amended: "The following national districts are established as identical with those of the Disabled American Veterans, effective at the close of the 1985 National Convention.

"District 1, Massachusetts; District 2, New York; District 3, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont; District 4, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Jersey; District 5, Pennsylvania; District 6, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico; District 7, Florida; District 8, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee; District 9, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina; District 10, Michigan; District 11, Ohio; District 12, Illinois and Wisconsin; District 13, Indiana and Kentucky; District 14, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota; District

15, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska; District 16, California; District 17, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming; District 18, Arizona, Hawaii and Nevada; District 19, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington; District 20, Texas; District 21, Arkansas and Oklahoma."

Page No. 9A, Article V, Section 5, delete paragraphs one and two.

Six. Page 12, Article VI, Section 3C-2 now reads "Provision is hereby made for a state auxiliary-at-large using the DAV state chapter-at-large name and number. Amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each state department. At-large membership shall be included in the state auxiliary membership total."

Amend by adding two (2) new paragraphs to read as follows: "Members-at-large, in good standing, are entitled to register and be a voting delegate at a state convention. Voting strength shall be based on the total membership of the at-large unit and will be determined in the same manner as the chartered units within the state, with the exception that there will be no vote for a charter. If more than one at-large delegate is registered, the at-large delegates and alternates will caucus to elect a chairman who will cast the votes of their delegation. At-large delegates are entitled to make motions and serve on convention committees. They cannot hold a department office."

Page 12, Article VI, Section 3C-2 would then read as amended: "Provision is hereby made for a state auxiliary-at-large using the DAV state chapter-at-large name and number. Amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each state department. At-large membership shall be included in the state auxiliary membership total.

"Members-at-large, in good standing, are entitled to register and be a voting delegate at a state convention. Voting strength shall be based on the total membership of the at-large unit and will be determined in the same manner as the chartered units within the state, with the exception that there will be no vote for a charter.

"If more than one at-large delegate is registered, the at-large delegates and alternates will caucus to elect a chairman who will cast the votes of their delegation. At-large delegates are entitled to make motions and serve on convention committees. They cannot hold a department office."

No. 7. Page 14, Article VIII, Section 4, second paragraph: Correct the spelling of "supersede."

No. 8. Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph 2: On last line after roll call insert the word "vote."

No. 9. Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph 5, line 5: Delete period and add to sentence, or state executive committee women.

No. 10. Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5: Insert as new paragraph six, "A state executive committee woman is not considered a state officer. Her term of office shall be the same as the state department officers."

No. 11. Page 15, Section 4, line 4, add "s" to notification.

No. 12. Page 16, Section 6, line 3: Delete comma and insert "or" between "resignation" and "inability."

No. 13. Page 16, Article VIII, Section 8, paragraph 1: On lines two and four insert the words "State" between "the" and "Department."

No. 14. Page 17, Article VIII, Section 11, first sentence now reads: "Warrants or check requests shall be used by a state department."

Amend by changing to read: "Warrants or check requests shall be used by a state department, signed by the state commander and countersigned by the state adjutant."

15. Page 18, Article X, Section 4: Amend by deleting present Section 4 and substituting the following: "Upon revocation of a local unit charter or a local unit becoming inactive, the charter shall revert to national headquarters and all property, money and effects of the unit shall revert to the state department to be held in trust for a period of 18 months. In the event the unit charter is not reissued within the period of 18 months, said property shall become the absolute property of the state department.

"Upon revocation of a state department charter or the charter of a local unit where there is no state department, the charters and all property, money and effects shall revert to national headquarters to be held in trust for a period of 18 months. In the event the charter of the state department or local unit is not reissued within the period of 18 months, said property shall become the absolute property of national headquarters."

No. 16. Page 19, Article X, add new Section 5 to read: "Upon suspension of a state department, or a local unit, no meetings shall be held in the name of the department or unit except for the sole purpose of the discussion of the cause, effect or removal of the penalty. No funds of the department or unit shall be expended or obligations incurred during and while the order of suspension is in force and effect." Renumber Section 5 then becomes six. Current Section 6 becomes 7, current Section 7 becomes 8.

17. Page 21, Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph 3, line 2: Change to read "of the above, any elected state officer, or district."

18. Page 21, Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph 5, line 1: Insert "incoming" between "The" and "Commander."

19. Page 22, Article XV, line 5: Delete "the" at the end of the line.

20. Page 29, Article V, Section 2: Insert sentence omitted in last printing—this will be the last sentence in Section 2. "In either case, one member shall be an elected officer."

21. Page 34, Article IX, Section 1, paragraph 2, line 2: Insert "Senior" between "a" and "member."

22. Page 35, Article XII, Section 1: Correct to read the same as Article XV, Section 1, page 22. Delete "least one calendar day" and insert "a business session."

23. Page 43, fourth paragraph—under Chaplain—line 5: "You" should read "your."

I'm sorry. We'll go back to No. 14. It was read incorrectly. It was signed and countersigned by the state adjutant or chairman of the state finance committee. This is on the warrants and checks.

Resolutions 25, 26 and 27 were not accepted by the committee. It was recommended by the constitution and by-laws committee to refer resolution 24 to an interim committee for further study. The interim committee will in turn submit its conclusion to the constitution and bylaws committee at the 1986 national convention. That concludes the first reading. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you, ladies. That is a terrific job well done.

I have one more thing that I was asked to read today. It's the member who never came back.

It amuses me to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. Do you remember me? I'm the fellow who was asked to join, I paid my dues, and then I was asked to be a loyal and faithful member. I'm the one who came to every meeting but nobody paid any attention to me. I've tried several times to be friendly but everyone seemed to have his own friends to talk to and to sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times but they didn't pay much attention to me. I had hoped someone would ask me to join one of the committees or somehow participate and contribute but no one did. Finally, because of illness I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date I decided to stay home and watch a good television program. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the month before. You might say that I'm a good gal, a good family person, that I hold a responsible job and love my community. You know who else I am, the member who never came back. [Applause.]

I want to tell you this because it's really the truth. There's a very important person in this hotel by the name of Dave and one of our auxiliary members told me this this morning. A gentlemen apparently is staying in the hotel and had been around in the lobby and everything for quite a while, and he went up to one of our DAV members and he said, where's Dave? Now, this is true, really, and the DAV member said, Dave who? And he said, well, I don't know his last name but he must be a mighty important person, his name is all over this hotel and they left the E off of it. They even spelled it wrong. That's true. Somebody did ask that.

And in Puerto Rico, the DAVA, they called it Dava but this really was true.

[Door prizes were given.]

[Whereupon the meeting recessed at 1:30 p.m.]

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

July 25, 1985

The Thursday morning session of the 1985 National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA, July 25, 1985, and was called to order at 9:16 a.m. by Commander Sally Wilton.

Commander **Wilton**. Ladies, will you please be seated so we can get our meeting started. At this time our national chaplain will give our opening prayer.

Mary Ellen Sisson. Let us pray. Father, may we feel thy nearness as we ask thy blessing on those who will be assuming the offices of leadership of our auxiliary for the new year. We ask your presence be felt as the responsibilities of their respective offices increase. Inspire the membership to return home with determination to set higher goals of service so that we may better serve thee. The growing number of aging disabled veterans, their dependents and other veterans needing assistance that we can provide. When we are helping them, we are also serving thee. Amen.

[Audience responded Amen.]

Commander **Wilton.** Thank you, Mary Ellen. Our national Americanism chairman will lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Rose Schilpp. Before we do our pledge, a great number have been concerned on the pause after one nation. There is no pause there, so let's see if we can say it without pausing. You know, we all sometimes learn things and it's kind of hard too change, but I feel like if you go back to your units and your departments and you practice this, we can do it right. Would you free your hands, stand at attention, place your left hand over your heart and say the pledge of allegiance.

[Pledge of allegiance was given.]

Commander **Wilton.** You may be seated. At this time we'll have the final reading of the constitution and bylaws. Jean Howard from Kentucky.

Jean Howard. Good morning, you-all.

[Audience responded good morning you-all.]

Jean Howard. National commanders, national officers, delegates and guests. This is the second reading of the proposed changes of the constitution and bylaws.

No. 1. Page 6, Article III, Section 7, paragraph 2 now reads: The national executive committee shall elect on the finance committee two national executive committeewomen from the seven numbered districts in the even numbered years for a two-year term and two national executive committeewomen from the odd numbered districts in the odd numbered years. Vacancies for an unexpired term shall be filled by election by the national executive committee from its members provided herein above. Amend by changing 7 to even.

Paragraph 6, Article III, Section 7, paragraph 2 would then read as amended: The national executive committee shall elect on the finance committee two, parentheses, (2) national executive committeewomen from the even numbered districts in the even numbered years for a two, parentheses, (2) year term and two national executive committeewomen from the odd numbered districts in the odd numbered years. Vacancies for an unexpired term shall be filled by election by the national executive committee from its members provided herein above.

Commander Sally, I make the motion that this change be adopted.

Virginia Mitchell. Virginia Mitchell, No. 80, Alabama, I second the motion.

Commander **Wilton.** Is there any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton.** Opposed? Motion passed.

Jean Howard. No. 2. Page 8, Article V, Section 1, line 5 now reads: Executive Committeewomen (or her alternate) from each district. Amend by changing committeewomen to committeewoman.

Page 8, Article V, Section 1, line 5 would then read as amended: Executive committeewoman (or her alternate) from each district.

Commander Sally, I make a motion that this change be adopted.

Commander Wilton. Is there a second?

Jean Howell. Jean Howell, Unit 11, Clearwater, Florida

Commander Wilton. We'll have to have it through the microphone, please.

Jean Howell. Madam Commander, Jean Howell, Unit 11, Clearwater, Florida. I second that motion.

Commander Wilton. Any discussion? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 3. Page 8, Article V, Section 1, last sentence now reads: Seven shall constitute a quorum. Amend by deleting the last sentence and inserting the following.

A majority (more than half) of all eligible voting members of the national executive committee shall constitute a quorum.

Commander Sally, I move this amendment be adopted.

Betty Slaycom. Betty Slaycom, Department of Delaware seconds this motion.

Commander Wilton. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.] Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 4. Page 8, Article V, Section 2 now reads; Among the responsibilities of each national executive committeewoman shall be the establishment of new auxiliaries in her district. Also, to compile the report of activities in her district for the year. Amend by deleting entire section and inserting new section to read.

Among the responsibilities of each national executive committeewoman shall be to help establish new auxiliaries in her district and to compile report of activities in her district for the year.

Commander Sally, I move that this amendment be adopted.

Shirley Alessi. Shirley Alessi, NEC from District 3.

Commander Wilton. Any discussions? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed, Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 5. Page 9, Article V, Section 5, first paragraph now reads: Districts are established identical with those of the disabled American Veterans. Amend by deleting present paragraph one and inserting new paragraph one to read:

The following national districts are established as identical with those of the Disabled American Veterans effective at the close of the 1985 national convention.

Page 9, Article V, Section 5, first paragraph would then read as amended. The following national districts are established as identical with those of the Disabled American Veterans, effective at the close of the 1985 national convention. District 1, Massachusetts; District 2, New York; District 3, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont; District 4, Connecticut, Deleware, and New Jersey; District 5, Pennsylvania; District 6, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Puerto Rico; District 7, Florida; District 8, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee; District 9, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina; District 10, Michigan; District 11, Ohio; District 12, Illinois and Wisconsin; District 13, Indiana and Kentucky; District 14, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota; District 15, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska; District 16, California; District 17, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming; District 18, Arizona, Hawaii and Nevada; District 19, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington; District 20, Texas; District 21, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Page 9A, Article V, Section 5, delete paragraphs one and two. That is in the same amendment.

Commander Sally, I move this amendment be adopted.

Commander Wilton. Is there a second to the motion?

Marie Simmons. Madam Commander.

Commander Wilton. Will you please go to the microphone. Our secretary cannot get the names.

Marie Simmons. Madam Commander, Marie Simmons, past department commander, Unit 44, second the motion.

Commander Wilton. California.

Marie Simmons. Sorry.

Commander Wilton. Is there any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 6. Page 12, Article VI, Section 3–C–2 now reads: Provision is hereby made for a state auxiliary-at-large using the DAV state chapter at-large name and number. Amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each state department. At-large membership shall be included in the state auxiliary membership total. Amend by adding two (2) new paragraphs to read as follows:

Members-at-large, in good standing, are entitled to register and be a voting delegation at a state convention. Voting strength shall be based on the total membership of the at-large unit and will be determined in the same manner as the chartered units within the state, with the exception that there will be no vote for a charter. If more than one at-large delegate is registered, the at-large delegates and alternates will caucus to elect a chairman who will cast the votes of their delegation. At-large delegates are entitled to make motions and serve on convention committees. They cannot hold a department office.

Page 12. Article VI, Section 3–C–2 would then read as amended:

Provision is hereby made for a state auxiliary-at-large using the DAV state chapter at-large name and number. Amount of annual membership dues shall be determined by each state department. At-large membership shall be included in the state auxiliary membership total.

Members-at-large in good standing are entitled to register and be a voting delegate at a state convention. Voting strength shall be based on the total membership of the at-large unit and will be determined in the same manner as the chartered units within the state with the exception that there will be no vote for a charter.

If more than one at-large delegate is registered, the at-large delegates and alternates will caucus to elect a chairman who will cast the votes of their delegation. At-large delegates are entitled to make motions and serve on convention committees. They cannot hold a department office.

Commander Sally, I move that this amendment be adopted.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there a second to this amendment?

Margie Anderson. Margie Anderson, NEC, 14th District. I make the second.

Commander **Wilton**. Discussion?

Florence Green. Madam Commander, Florence Green from Kalamazoo No. 6; Michigan. I oppose this very much. We have over a thousand members-at-large in Michigan. One member may take the obligation and come and cast 100 votes or more without even having the knowledge or background of the organization. We feel this is representation to the convention without really having the support of the members-at-large. If they want to be members, why don't they go into the unit where they can hold an office and really be a part of it. [Applause.]

We oppose this very much.

Commander **Wilton**. At this time we will recognize the rest of you for discussion, but I would like to ask National Judge Advocate, Lucille McCarthy, to explain this amendment.

Lucille McCarthy. This amendment is nothing different than what should have been the normal procedure in your department. Any member who belongs, who is in the at-large unit, is entitled to the rights of membership. That is why she paid her dues. She is entitled to a voice and a vote.

I happen to know that Michigan uses their at-large unit for the purpose of a membership drive, that when they have a membership drive all members are automatically put into the at-large unit. But I would think it would be their responsibility to transfer these members into units close to their home. They use this particular at-large unit because they charge only one amount of dues on the state-wide drive.

Our parent organization follows this procedure. We are doing nothing different than what, as I said, what should have been done before.

You do count these members towards reaching your department quota. You do get the extra amount of money that you receive from these at-large members. During our discussion within our committee, many were under the impression that if you were in the at-large, it was only because you are a troublemaker. This is not so. When your unit charter might be revoked, not due to the auxiliary members, but to the fact that the charter of the chapter might have been revoked, somewhere these members, we hope to save and we hope to place them in a unit. And until such time that there is a unit close to their home, they are placed into the at-large unit. So actually anyone in the at-large you are depriving them of their membership rights, and if you want to get real technical, we are depriving them of their rights by saying they cannot hold a department office. They are entitled to that.

So if you are saying this is all wrong, then I would say we are also wrong by depriving them from holding an office within your department. When you join this auxiliary, you join with all rights of membership, whether you belong to a chartered unit or not a chartered unit. Therefore, you have, upon receiving the membership obligation, you should have a voice, a vote and be eligible to hold an office. If someone comes to your convention and registers and you do not know whether she has received the membership obligation, there again, it's the department's responsibility to see that she does have the membership obligation when she registers.

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you, Lucille.

Mary Patterson. Mary Patterson, 7th District NEC, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. I'm from Indiana.

Lucille covered it pretty good on the obligation, but there's a lot that belongs to at-large chapter that a lot of members does not know. When are you going to give the obligation, Lucille, right at convention.

Lucille McCarthy. At convention. It can be given at any place at any time by a proper person.

Mary Patterson. I know it can be given at the present time, but what if you are going to do and come and say they are at-large and don't even have a card with them?

Lucille McCarthy. First, I would like to ask, Mary, how many people come to your convention that are from the at-large unit?

Mary Patterson. Not very many but some shows up.

Lucille McCarthy. If they do, I assume you are having credentials within your department?

Mary Patterson. Right.

Lucille McCarthy. Then you should have a credential given to these ladies when they show up at the registration desk and should be signed by the department commander and the department adjutant just the same as you would do with your department officers.

Unidentified Delegate. These are at-large members. I'm like the other lady, Florence Green. I think that most of them that is in the at-large unit should try to get into a unit so a person would know them.

Lucille McCarthy. A list has been sent to the departments every time.

Kit Seal Feighner. Every three months.

Lucille McCarthy. And have been asked—you have been asked, I know, in the past to transfer these people into active units if they so desire, but there are a lot of people who belong to the at-large unit that do not want to be involved in a chartered unit. They are not able to attend meetings or it's too far for them to drive and, therefore, would you not rather have them as a member of your organization, be able to count them towards your membership strength within your department, and I would say, yes, I would. Do you want us to take your at-large members off and transfer them into a unit where they wouldn't even be active?

Commander **Wilton**. May I suggest to some of you that we have raised our dues, at-large membership to $15. No unit in the state charges that much, so it's an incentive for them to be in a unit if it's a money thing.

The chair will recognize Ann Ross.

Ann Ross. I'm still contemplating my argument for a moment.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there any other discussion?

Virginia Mitchell. Virginia Mitchell, Unit 80. If they don't want to attend local meetings and they don't want to participate on a local level, then why should we give them the right to come to a state convention just because they want to come and vote? [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. What percentage of units, members in your unit come to your meetings? Thank you for your comments.

Virginia Mitchell. Thank you.

Lelia McGinnis. Lelia McGinnis, NEC for the 16th District. According to our bylaws, in order for a unit to have a vote at state or national convention, they must have their mandates paid and an audit report on file. The at-large members would not have either.

How can they have a vote at the conventions if they have not paid the mandates or an audit report? [Applause.]

Lucille McCarthy. How many of you remember about seven or eight years ago? I'm not sure if I have the correct year, but we had to put in our bylaws, according to our parent organization, at-large units. Up until then we did not have anything in there, neither did we have them on the computer, as I understand. And it was something that we had to do because we have to have—the at-large unit, is required by the parent organization. Now, I feel that if that requirement we must follow, we have no choice, and I believe the requirement is the same as following the procedure of their registration and coming to conventions. I would firmly say that we have no choice in that. We're not doing anything different now than what we should have been doing all along. It's just the fact that we're spelling it out because there has been much confusion. We have a member here at this convention. She's from a department at-large unit. She's registered. She has all privileges of voting here at this convention, and this is the way it should be. She paid her membership dues and has received the membership obligation; therefore, she has all rights.

Lelia McGinnis. My second question would be: I think this amendment would be permissible if they only had one vote, but I cannot see one person coming in and casting, in our case, in California it would be 44 votes for our membership. I would go along with one vote per member but that would be all. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. If you have one member coming to your state convention from a unit, do they cast all the votes for that unit?

[Audience responded yes.]

Commander Wilton. Yes, they have that right.

I will recognize the lady by District 7.

Jean Howell. This is Jean Howell, Clearwater, Florida.

I would like to know how many members-at-large are attending the convention.

Commander Wilton. Very few, I think.

Kit Seal Feighner. This is the first year. We have one lady from Kansas and I think three from Washington and from the national at-large we don't have any, and they could cast a lot of votes.

We have a lot of members in the national at-large but they would be entitled to vote if anybody came here.

Jean Howell. I think that almost answers the question. They are not interested in being a member. They do not attend their own meetings, if they could have, so why would they spend the money to come to a convention and vote on something they know nothing about? [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. The chair recognizes Nelda Wilson.

Nelda Wilson. Nelda Wilson, past national commander from Department of Illinois.

While we are working so hard on Membership, why are we trying to hold down these at-large members? Let's get them in, let's make them feel welcome and they will join. [Applause.]

Kit Seal Feighner. Might I just say one more thing. We're planning a big national membership drive. We're going to be able through a company to buy names of ladies that are eligible through the DAV list, which we've never had, and we're planning a big national membership drive. They will be assigned to a chapter if we know there's one there but if not, they will go into your state at-large. The state is going to get the money for this member, and then we would ask you to transfer them into a local unit. You get the master list every three months and the state at-large names and addresses are there, and why don't you transfer them into an active unit if you want them in your department? You accept their money. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Ann Ross.

Ann Ross. Ann Ross, department commander, California. I go along with many of the comments made by the national adjutant. However, a delegate to a convention is elected by the unit, by the department. An at-large unit does not have an elective membership; therefore, anyone can appear from the at-large and declare themselves to be a delegate to this convention or state convention. The membership is comprised of many, many persons that have not taken the obligation. If an entire at-large unit is to be considered in voting, then it would appear that all of the members of that unit should have taken the obligation in order to be a member in good standing.

Commander **Wilton**. Please remember that the obligation can be given anytime, anyplace, anywhere.

Ann Ross. However, in answer to that, Commander Sally, not all of the members would be taking the obligation, only the delegate that declares himself or herself to be a delegate would be taking the obligation.

Lucille McCarthy. I would like to respond to that because I wonder how many members in a local unit have received the membership obligation. There are many members that belong to your local unit that have not received the membership obligation, only those who might attend your meetings or a social or hold an office and/or hold an office, but I believe the last paragraph in this amendment that we're proposing, it tells you how you select a delegate in the at-large unit or delegation should more than one come to a convention. If only one person comes to a convention, naturally she would be the only one there to register and become the delegate. She would select herself; however, if there's more than one, they would caucus and they would decide who would be the chairman of the delegation.

Now, if they were only entitled to five delegates and seven showed up at this particular department convention, only five could be delegates and those five would make the decision as far as how the votes would be cast for that unit.

Betty Boyd. Madam Commander, Betty Boyd, 18th District.

Commander **Wilton**. Betty, just a minute, please. We have some ladies over here who were at the microphone first, and I would like to recognize them.

Betty Boyd. I'm sorry.

Leona Sharp. Leona Sharp, commander, Department of Michigan. First of all, Michigan has notified their unit at-large 33s that they can transfer into an active unit anytime they so desire, and those that haven't, it's their own choice.

We do not feel that they should have the right to vote the strength of the whole unit at-large. If they come and take the obligation, they can have the vote of one member. If you are not—because they have not paid mandates or do not have a charter, you are going to have other units saying why should we pay our mandates, unit at-large gets to vote their whole strength. They do not pay mandates. I think they are going to have the same problems with other units that don't care to pay mandates.

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you.

Past national commander, Florence Daley.

Florence Daley. Past national commander, Florence Daley. I suggest at this time we've had enough discussion. We move the question. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you, Florence.

I will recognize Betty Boyd, NEC from the 18th District, since she was on the floor.

Thank you.

Betty Boyd. All I wanted to say was if they come to a convention and you do not—they probably come with their husbands is why they are there anyway. If you do not let them vote, you do not let them have any privileges of membership, you are cutting your own throat. If they don't vote and get involved, chances are they will join a unit.

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you, Betty.

All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed?

[Audience responded no.]

Jean Howard. We're going to have a roll call vote. There will be ten minutes to set up for roll call.

Commander **Wilton**. Addie? Where is Addie? Addie, would you please see if you could get the refrigeration turned up a little higher, please. Everybody is freezing to death.

[A recess was held at 9:50 a.m.]

[The meeting was resumed at 10:15 a.m.]

Commander **Wilton**. We're not fooling around. We're just waiting for someone to get this other adding machine plugged in and then we'll start, as soon as they get that taken care of.

Kit Seal Feighner. Mary Kaplan, can I see you a minute?

We're ready to start the roll call.

Would you please close the doors. It has been asked that if doors are locked? Doors are never locked during any kind of a roll call, election of officers. There is always ingress and egress, and that's part of your convention rules. We don't have a closed meeting. Anyone that needs to go in and out may. We need credentials first.

Liz Cody. Okay, ladies. We have got to get through this first. As of today, we have 339 units and 39 departments. We have 793 delegates, 122 alternates, 183 visitors. Now, the units, 1717; department 39. These are the votes, by the way, ladies. National officers, chairmen and NECs, 31. Past national commanders, 12. Grant total of votes is 1799. That's it, ladies.

You know, ladies, I read you that long list. There are a lot of you that didn't clear. It's too late now. So when Kit gets to your unit, you just won't be called.

Kit Seal Feighner. So you are voting for or against. Alabama. Alabama No. 4, 5 votes.

Alabama Delegate. Alabama No. Four votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Sheehan Pike Alabama No. 7, 4 votes.

Alabama Delegate. Sheehan Pike votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Montgomery No. 12, 4 votes.

Alabama Delegate. Four votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Huntsville 26, 3 votes.

Alabama Delegate. Huntsville, yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Mobile 69, 2 votes. Mobile, 69, 2 votes.

Colonel Charles Young No. 70, 2 votes. Colonel Charles Young, No. 70, 2 votes.

Alabama Delegate. Votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

Cottondale No. 80, 2 votes.

Alabama Delegate. Two votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Dodgeton No. 87, 3 votes.

Alabama Delegate. Dodgeton, 3 votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no. Twin Cities No. 95, 2 votes.

Alabama Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

The Department of Alabama one vote.

Alabama Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Arizona, Phoenix Unit No. 1, 37 votes.

Arizona Delegate. Phoenix No. 1, 37 votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. 37 yes. Tucson No. 4, 5 votes.

Arizona Delegate. Five no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five no. Casa Grande No. 6, 5 votes.

Arizona Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Tri-City No. 8, 10 votes. Tri City No. 8, 10 votes.

Payson No. 13, 4 votes.

Arizona Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

Rincon Renegades 18, 10 votes.

Arizona Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Ten votes yes.

Glendale 20, 19 votes.

Arizona Delegate. Nineteen votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Nineteen yes.

The Department of Arizona, 1 vote.

Arizona Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Arkansas. Fort Smith, Arkansas, 5 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. James L. Whitbey No. 5, 3 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Little Rock No. 7, 10 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Ten votes yes.

Pine Bluff No. 12, 2 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

Carroll County 23, 2 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

Jonesboro 26, 2 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

Bruce Kimbrow 32, 7 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.

Edwin Kripe No. 40, 3 votes. Edwin Kripe No. 40, 3 votes.

White County 41, 3 votes.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Miller County No. 51, 3 votes. Miller County No. 51, 3 votes.

The Department of Arkansas, one vote.

Arkansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote, yes. Is it all right if I don't call your unit name, just your number?

[Audience responded yes.]

Kit Seal Feighner. California No. 1, 6 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

San Diego No. 2, 19 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 19 no.

San Francisco No. 3, 8 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 8 votes no.

Los Angeles No. 5, 11 votes. No. 5, 11 votes.

Oakland No. 7, 5 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. No.

Jack Ford No. 9, 6 votes. Jack Ford No. 9, 6 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 6 votes no.

Mishallow San Jose 11, 6 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 6 votes no.

Camp Kearney Vina 13, 5 votes. 13, 5 votes.

No. 17 California, 7 votes. No. 17 California, 7 votes.

No. 18 California, 2 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

No. 19 California, 4 votes. 19 California, 4 votes.

No. 22 California, 6 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 6 votes no.

No. 23 California, 6 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 6 votes no.

No. 27 California, 3 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 3 votes no.

Glendale 33, 4 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 4 votes no.

No. 34, 3 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 3 votes no.

No. 44, 5 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 5 votes no.

No. 47, 2 votes. No. 47, 2 votes.

No. 48, 6 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 6 votes no.

No. 74, 4 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 74, 4 votes no.

No. 76, 2 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

No. 89, 3 votes.

No. 92, 7 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven no.

No. 94, 6 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

No. 101, 9 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Nine votes no.

No. 117, 2 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

No. 144, 5 votes.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

No. 148, 2 votes. 148, 2 votes.

The Department of California, one vote.

California Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Colorado No. 6, 3 votes. Colorado No. 6, 3 votes.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Murphy Bareli No. 7, 10 votes.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Ten votes no.

Vail-Greeley No. 8, 5 votes.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

North Central 14, 4 votes.

Colorado Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

No. 21, 3 votes.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

No. 22, 11 votes.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner: Eleven votes no.

Knob Hill 26, 6 votes.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

No. 39, 6 votes.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

The Department of Colorado, one vote.

Colorado Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Connecticut. Connecticut No. 3, 3 votes.

Connecticut Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Connecticut No. 9, 4 votes.

Connecticut Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 4 votes no.

Connecticut No. 16, 3 votes.

Connecticut Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Connecticut No. 21, 3 votes.

Connecticut Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Department of Connecticut, one vote.

Connecticut Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Delaware. Delaware No. 5, 3 votes.

Delaware Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. The Department of Delaware, one vote.

Delaware Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

District of Columbia No. 1, 4 votes.

Delaware Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

King Clark No. 4, 2 votes. King Clark No. 4, 2 votes.

The Department of the District of Columbia, one vote.

District of Columbia Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Florida. Florida No. 3, 5 votes.

Florida Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

Tampa No. 4, 13 votes.

Florida Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Thirteen yes.

Clearwater No. 11, 8 votes.

Florida Delegate. Eight votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes yes.

Bay Pines 13, 8 votes.

Florida Delegate. Eight votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes yes.

Florida No. 18, 17 votes.

Florida Delegate. Seventeen votes yes

Kit Seal Feighner. Seventeen yes.

Jackson County 22, 12 votes.

Florida Delegate. Twelve votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Twelve votes yes.

Polk County 28, 7 votes.

Florida Delegate. Seven votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.

Frank Oliver 40, 8 votes.

Florida Delegate. Eight votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes no.

Florida No. 41, 5 votes.

Florida Delegate. Five votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Palm Beach 42, 7 votes.

Florida Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.

Hialeah-Miami Springs, 8 votes, 43.

Florida Delegate. Eight votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes yes.

Crestview 57, 3 votes.

Florida Delegate. Three votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Florida No. 67, 7 votes.

Florida Delegate. Seven votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.

North Marian 68, 3 votes. North Marian 68, 3 votes.

Citrus 70, 4 votes.

Florida Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

New Port Richey, New Port Richey 78, 14 votes. New Port Richey 78, 14 votes.

Florida No. 82, 5 votes.

Florida Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

Holly Hill 84, 15 votes.

Florida Delegate. Fifteen yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Fifteen yes.

Florida 87, 5 votes.

Florida Delegate. Five votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

Florida 92, 7 votes.

Florida Delegate. Florida 92, yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.

Florida 96, 7 votes.

Florida Delegate. Seven votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.

Florida 97, 3 votes.

Florida Delegate. Florida 97, 3 votes yes.

Braden River 99, 4 votes.

Florida Delegate. Four votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

Florida 101, 6 votes.

Florida Delegate Six votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Florida 108, 4 votes.

Florida Delegate. Four votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Titusville 109, 4 votes.

Florida Delegate. Four votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

Fort St. Lucie 113, 3 votes.

Florida Delegate. No. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Santa Rosa 125, 2 votes.

Florida Delegate. Two votes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Gateway 127, 4 votes.

Florida Delegate. Four votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Suncoast 139, 5 votes. Suncoast 139, 5 votes.

The Department of Florida, one vote.

Florida Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Georgia. Georgia No. 2, 3 votes.

Georgia Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Georgia No. 3, 3 votes.

Georgia Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Georgia No. 8, 5 votes.

Georgia Delegate. Five votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

Georgia No. 9, 14 votes.

Georgia Delegate. Ten votes yes, 4 votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Ten votes yes, 4 votes no.

Pendleton King No. 10, 5 votes.

Georgia Delegate. Five votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

Georgia No. 18, 2 votes.

Georgia Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

Georgia No. 50, 7 votes.

Georgia Delegate. Seven votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.

Idaho No. 9—Department of Georgia isn't registered.

Georgia Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Check with the credentials committee while I go on through the roll call. I'll come back to you.

Idaho No. 9, 3 votes. Idaho No. 9, 3 votes.

Illinois No. 1, 7 votes. Illinois 7 yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven yes.

Illinois No. 6, 3 votes.

Illinois Delegate. Illinois No. 6, 3 votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Illinois 11, 3 votes.

Illinois Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Illinois 15, 17 votes.

Illinois Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seventeen yes.

Illinois 24, 4 votes. Illinois 24, 4 votes.

Illinois 25, 9 votes. Illinois 25, 9 votes.

Illinois 42, 6 votes. Illinois 42, 6 votes.

Illinois Delegate. Six votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Illinois 43, 3 votes. Illinois 43, 3 votes.

Illinois Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Quad City 53, 3 votes. Quad City 53.

Illinois Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Illinois 55, 2 votes.

Illinois Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

The Department of Illinois, one vote.

Illinois Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Indiana No. 6, 16 votes.

Indiana Delegate. Sixteen votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Sixteen votes no.

Indiana No. 9, 3 votes. Indiana No. 9, 3 votes.

Indiana No. 12, 2 votes.

Indiana Delegate. Two no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two no.

Indiana 15, 14 votes.

Indiana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Fourteen no.

Indiana 16, 3 votes. Indiana 16, 3 votes.

Indiana 23, 6 votes. Indiana 23, 6 votes.

Indiana 64, 2 votes. Indiana 64, 2 votes.

The Department of Indiana, one vote.

Indiana Delegate. One vote no.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Iowa. Iowa No. 2. Was there a unit that I didn't hear? Which one?

Indiana Delegate. No. 16.

Kit Seal Feighner. No. 16, 3 votes.

Indiana Delegate. Yes. 3 votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. We will go back Iowa No. 2, 2 votes.

Iowa Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Iowa No. 10, 3 votes.

Iowa Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Iowa No. 11, 3 votes.

Iowa Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Iowa 20. 4 votes.

Iowa Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Iowa 29, 4 votes. Iowa 29, 4 votes.

Iowa 54, 5 votes.

Iowa Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Kansas. Kansas No. 1, 6 votes.

Kansas Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes yes.

Kansas No. 3, 3 votes.

Kansas Delegate. No, ma'am.

Kit Seal Feighner. No. 3 votes no.

Kansas No. 4, 7 votes.

Kansas Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.

Kansas No. 11, 2 votes. Kansas No. 11, 2 votes.

Kansas No. 12, that's the state at-large, 2 votes. There is your state at-large member.

Kansas No. 16, 3 votes.

Kansas Delegate. Three votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Kansas No. 34, 4 votes.

Kansas Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Kansas 36, 2 votes.

Kansas Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Kansas 37, 2 votes.

Kansas Delegate. Two votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Department of Kansas, one vote.

Kansas Delegate. Department of Kansas, one vote no.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Kentucky, Louisville No. 6, 5 votes.

Kentucky Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

Kentucky No. 8, 6 votes.

Kentucky Delegate. Three yes, 3 no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three yes, 3 no.

Kentucky 47, 3 votes.

Kentucky Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Kentucky 51, 2 votes. Kentucky 51, 2 votes.

Kentucky 116, 6 votes.

Kentucky Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes yes.

Kentucky 149, 2 votes.

Kentucky Delegate. Two votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

Department of Kentucky, one vote.

Kentucky Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Louisiana No. 2, 2 votes. Louisiana No. 2, 2 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no. Louisiana No. 2, 2 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes No.

Louisiana No. 7, 3 votes. Louisiana No. 7, 3 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Louisiana No. 10, 4 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Louisiana 13, 2 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. Louisiana No. 13 no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

No. 15, 3 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No. 15 no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

No. 25, 2 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No. 25, 2 votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. No. 30, 6 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No, you-all.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

No. 33, 4 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No. 33 no.

Kit Seal Feighner. No. 33, 4 votes no.

No. 36, 7 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.

No. 47, 4 votes.

Louisiana Delegate. No. Forty-seven no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

The Department of Louisiana, one vote.

Louisiana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Maine. Maine, No. 6, 3 votes.

Maine Delegate. Three votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

No. 19 Maine, 2 votes. 19 Maine, 2 votes.

The Department of Maine, one vote.

Maine Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Maryland. Maryland No. 1, 8 votes. Maryland No. 1, 8 votes.

Maryland No. 4, 5 votes. Maryland No. 4, 5 votes.

Maryland No. 17, 5 votes. Maryland No. 17, 5 votes.

Maryland No. 21, 3 votes.

Maryland Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes Maryland No. 23, 5 votes.

Maryland Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Maryland No. 36, 3 votes.

Maryland Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

The Department of Maryland, one vote.

Maryland Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Massachusetts. Massachusetts No. 4, 2 votes. Massachusetts No. 4, 2 votes.

Massachusetts No. 7, 2 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Massachusetts No. 10, 14 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Fourteen yes.

Massachusetts 13, 4 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Massachusetts 21, 5 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Massachusetts 22, 5 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. Five votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

Massachusetts 27, 3 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. No, 3.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Massachusetts 39, 4 votes.

Massachusetts 39, 4 votes.

Massachusetts 45, 3 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. Three votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Massachusetts 49, 2 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. Two votes no.

Massachusetts 50, 3 votes. Massachusetts 50, 3 votes.

Massachusetts 55, 3 votes. Massachusetts 55, 3 votes.

Massachusetts 56, 2 votes. Massachusetts 56, 2 votes.

Massachusetts 64, 3 votes. Massachusetts 64, 3 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Massachusetts 84, 4 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Massachusetts 113, 2 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. Two votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Massachusetts 114, 3 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. Three votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes?

Massachusetts Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Massachusetts 115, 5 votes.

Massachusetts Delegate. Five votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

The Department of Massachusetts, one vote.

Massachusetts Delegate. One vote no.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Michigan.

Unidentified Delegate. Unit 37?

Kit Seal Feighner. Unit 37 is not cleared for registering. They are not registered. If you will check with the credentials committee and I will go back to the roll call.

The Department of Georgia. They questioned the vote was registered from your unit, not her department.

Unidentified Delegate. Massachusetts 100.

Kit Seal Feighner. Massachusetts 100 is not registered. Would you check with the credentials committee.

Michigan. Michigan No. 1, 9 votes.

Michigan Delegate. Nine votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Nine votes no.

Michigan No. 2, 11 votes.

Michigan Delegate. Eleven votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eleven votes no.

Michigan No. 3, 8 votes.

Michigan Delegate. Eight votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes no.

Michigan No. 4, 5 votes.

Michigan Delegate. Five votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Michigan No. 7, 4 votes.

Michigan Delegate. Four votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Michigan No. 9, 5 votes.

Michigan Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Michigan No. 12, 5 votes.

Michigan Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Michigan No. 20, seven votes.

Michigan Delegate. Seven votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.

Michigan No. 95, 2 votes.

Michigan Delegate. Two votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Michigan 113, 11 votes.

Michigan Delegate. 113 no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eleven votes no.

The Department of Michigan, one vote.

Michigan Delegate. The Department of Michigan votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Minnesota. Minnesota No. 1, 8 votes.

Minnesota Delegate. Question. Michigan 114?

Kit Seal Feighner. 114 is not registered. They may not be cleared. Check with the credentials committee.

Minnesota No. 1, 8 votes.

Minnesota Delegate. 6 for, 2 no.

Kit Seal Feighner. 6 for and 2 no.

Minnesota No. 7, 2 votes.

Minnesota Delegate. 2 yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. 2 yes.

Mankato No. 10, 3 votes. Mankato No. 10, 3 votes.

Minnesota 16, 2 votes. 16, 2 votes.

Minnesota 32, 3 votes.

Minnesota Delegate. Minnesota 32, yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

The Department of Minnesota, one vote.

Minnesota Delegate. Department of Minnesota votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. The Department of Minnesota one yes.

Mississippi No. 4, 2 votes. Mississippi No. 4, 2 votes.

Mississippi Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Mississippi No. 5, 9 votes.

Mississippi Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Nine votes no.

Mississippi No. 11, 4 votes.

Mississippi Delegate. No. 11 votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Mississippi 26, 3 votes.

Mississippi Delegate. Three votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Mississippi 56, 3 votes.

Mississippi Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

The Department of Mississippi, one vote.

Mississippi Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Missouri No. 1, 15 votes.

Missouri Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Fifteen no.

Missouri No. 2, 13 votes.

Missouri Delegate. Thirteen votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Thirteen no.

Missouri No. 4, 5 votes.

Missouri Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Missouri No. 10, 6 votes.

Missouri Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

Missouri No. 17, 6 votes.

Missouri Delegate. Six votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

Missouri No. 49, 4 votes.

Missouri Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

The Department of Missouri, one vote.

Missouri Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Montana. Montana No. 2, 6 votes. Montana No. 2, 6 votes.

Ava Johnson, you have an urgent phone call. Would you call your son.

Montana No. 2, 6 votes. Did they answer?

Montana Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no from Montana No. 2.

What are your votes? No or yes?

Missouri Delegate. I'm trying to get recognized for Missouri 51.

Kit Seal Feighner. No. 51 did not clear. See the credentials committee up here.

Back to Montana No. 2. They didn't answer their 6 votes, right?

Montana Delegate. They are not here.

Kit Seal Feighner. Lewis-Clark No. 3, 5 votes.

Montana Delegate. Five yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five yes.

The Department of Montana, one vote.

Montana Delegate. Department of Montana yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Nebraska No. 2, 11 votes.

Nebraska Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eleven votes no.

Nebraska No. 7, 11 votes.

Nebraska Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eleven votes no.

Nebraska 21, 2 votes.

Nebraska Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Nebraska 47, 2 votes.

Nebraska Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Nevada. Nevada No. 12, 3 votes. Nevada No. 12, 3 votes.

New Hampshire. New Hampshire No. 4, 4 votes. New Hampshire No. 4, 4 votes.

New Hampshire No. 7, 5 votes.

New Hampshire Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.

New Hampshire No. 11, 2 votes. New Hampshire No. 11, 2 votes.

New Hampshire 19, 2 votes.

New Hampshire Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

New Jersey No. 1, 4 votes.

New Jersey Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

New Jersey No. 3, 3 votes. New Jersey No. 3, 3 votes.

New Jersey No. 12, 3 votes.

New Jersey Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

New Jersey 26, 3 votes.

New Jersey Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

New Jersey No. 40, 2 votes.

New Jersey Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

New Jersey 41, 7 votes.

New Jersey Delegate. Four no, three yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four no, three yes.

New Jersey 64, 5 votes.

New Jersey Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

New Jersey 73, 7 votes.

New Jersey Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.
Department of New Jersey, one vote.
New Jersey Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
New Mexico. New Mexico No. 3, 7 votes.
New Mexico Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.
New Mexico No. 5, 3 votes.
New Mexico Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.
New Mexico No. 10, 2 votes. New Mexico No. 10, 2 votes.
New Mexico Delegate. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.
New Mexico 26, 4 votes.
New Mexico Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.
New Mexico 32, 5 votes.
New Mexico Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.
Department of New Mexico, one vote.
New Mexico Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
New York. New York No. 35, 3 votes. New York 35, 3 votes.
New York 60, 5 votes.
New York Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.
New York 78, 4 votes.
New York Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.
New York 82, 11 votes. New York 82, 11 votes.
New York Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Eleven votes no.
New York 150, 4 votes. New York 150, 4 votes.
New York 186, 2 votes.
New York Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.
New York 188, 3 votes.
New York Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.
The Department of New York, one vote.
New York Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
North Carolina. North Carolina No. 1, 2 votes.
North Carolina Delegate. North Carolina, 2 votes yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.
North Carolina No. 9, 3 votes. North Carolina No. 9, 3 votes.
North Carolina No. 10, 3 votes.
North Carolina Delegate. Three votes yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.
North Carolina 27, 7 votes.
North Carolina Delegate. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.
North Carolina, 39, 5 votes. North Carolina 39, 5 votes.

North Carolina, 43, 3 votes. North Carolina 43, 3 votes. North Carolina 75, 3 votes.

North Carolina Delegate. Three votes, yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes, yes.

The Department of North Carolina, one vote.

North Carolina Delegate. Abstained.

Kit Seal Feighner. Abstained.

North Dakota No. 2, 9 votes. North Dakota No. 2, 9 votes. North Dakota No. 4, 4 votes. North Dakota No. 4, 4 votes. Ohio. Cincinnati No. 1, 7 votes.

Ohio Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.

Cincinnati No. 3, 8 votes.

Ohio Delegate. No. Who is saying no? 8? No. 3, 8 votes no. Ohio 21, 2 votes. Ohio 21, 2 votes. 89 Ohio 28, 5 votes.

Ohio Delegate. Five votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Ohio 45, 4 votes.

Ohio Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Ohio 50, 10 votes.

Ohio Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Ten votes no.

Ohio 54, 2 votes.

Ohio Delegate. Two votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Ohio 63, 4 votes.

Ohio Delegate. Four votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.

Ohio 90, 4 votes.

Ohio Delegate. Four votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Ohio 103, 3 votes. Ohio 103, 3 votes. Ohio 115, 5 votes.

Ohio Delegate. Five votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.

Ohio 117, 7 votes. Ohio 117, 7 votes. The Department of Ohio, one vote.

Ohio Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Oklahoma No. 7, 4 votes. Oklahoma No. 7, 4 votes. Oklahoma 31, 2 votes. Oklahoma 31, 2 votes. Oklahoma 32, 8 votes. Oklahoma 32, 8 votes.

Oklahoma Delegate. Eight votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes yes.

Oklahoma 39, 6 votes.

Oklahoma Delegate. Six votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes yes.

Oklahoma 49, 2 votes. Oklahoma 49, 2 votes. Oklahoma 54, 3 votes.

Oklahoma Delegate. Three votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

Oklahoma 60, 3 votes.

Oklahoma Delegate. Three votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

The Department of Oklahoma, one vote.

Oklahoma Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Oregon. Oregon No. 6, 4 votes.

Oregon Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

The Department of Oregon, one vote.

Oregon Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania No. 1, 3 votes.

Pennsylvania Delegate. Three votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Pennsylvania No. 6, 7 votes. Pennsylvania No. 6, 7 votes.

Pennsylvania No. 7, 5 votes.

Pennsylvania Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Fives votes no.

Pennsylvania No. 9, 4 votes. Pennsylvania No. 9, 4 votes.

Pennsylvania No. 15, 3 votes. Pennsylvania 15, 3 votes.

Pennsylvania 57, 2 votes.

Pennsylvania Delegate. Fifty-seven votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

Pennsylvania 76, 4 votes. Pennsylvania 76, 4 votes.

Pennsylvania 123, 3 votes.

Pennsylvania Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes yes.

The Department of Pennsylvania, one vote.

Pennsylvania Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Rhode Island No. 9, 2 votes. Rhode Island No. 9, 2 votes.

Rhode Island Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes. Rhode Island 15, 2 votes.

Rhode Island Delegate. Two votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes.

Rhode Island 23, 3 votes.

Rhode Island Delegate. Three votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. The Department of Rhode Island, one vote.

Rhode Island Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

South Carolina No. 1, 6 votes.

South Carolina Delegate. Six votes yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes yes.

The Department of South Carolina, one vote.

South Carolina Delegate. One vote yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

South Dakota No. 1, 12 votes. South Dakota No. 1, 12 votes.

South Dakota No. 6, 3 votes.

South Dakota Delegate. Two votes yes, one no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes yes, one no.

South Dakota 17, 3 votes. South Dakota 17, 3 votes.

The Department of South Dakota, one vote.

South Dakota Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Tennessee. Tennessee No. 3, 4 votes.

Tennessee Delegate. Four yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.
Tennessee 24, 7 votes.
Tennessee Delegate. Seven votes no.
Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.
Tennessee 43, 3 votes.
Tennessee Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.
Tennessee No. 70, 7 votes.
Tennessee Delegate. Five votes yes, 2 no.
Kit Seal Feighner. Five yes, 2 no.
The Department of Tennessee, one vote.
Tennessee Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Texas. Texas No. 3, 6 votes. Texas No. 3, 6 votes.
Texas Delegate. Wait a minute. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes yes.
Texas 5, 9 votes.
Texas Delegate. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Nine votes yes.
Texas 6, 3 votes. Texas 6, 3 votes
Texas 9, 5 votes.
Texas Delegate. Five votes no.
Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes no.
Texas 11, 5 votes.
Texas Delegate. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Five votes yes.
Texas 20, 12 votes.
Texas Delegate. Twelve votes yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Twelve votes yes.
Texas 26, 4 votes.
Texas Delegate. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.
Texas 31, 7 votes.
Texas Delegate. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes yes.
Texas 32, 8 votes.
Texas Delegate. Eight votes yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes yes.
Texas No. 37, 4 votes.
Texas Delegate. Four votes yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes
Texas 40, 3 votes.
Texas Delegate. Three yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Three yes.
Texas 42, 4 votes.
Texas Delegate. Four votes yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes yes.
Texas 48, 2 votes. Texas 48, 2 votes.
Texas 56, 3 votes.
Texas Delegate. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.
Texas 57, 3 votes. Texas 57, 3 votes.
Texas Delegate. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Three votes yes.
Texas 102, 3 votes. Texas 102, 3 votes.
Texas 106, 2 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. Yes.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Texas 106, 2 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. Yes.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Two votes yes.
Texas 114, 3 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. Yes.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Three votes yes.
Texas 116, 2 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. No.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Two votes no.
Texas 141, 2 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. Yes.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Two votes yes.
Texas 157, 2 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. Two yes.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Two yes.
Texas 173, 5 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. No.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Five votes no.
Texas 175, 4 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. Yes.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Four votes yes.
Texas 194, 4 votes. Texas 194, 4 votes.
Texas 220, 8 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. No.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Eight votes no.
Texas 222, 4 votes.
TEXAS DELEGATE. No.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Four votes no.
Texas 223, 3 votes. Texas 223, 3 votes.
The Department of Texas, one vote.
TEXAS DELEGATE. One vote yes.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.
Utah. Utah No. 1, 3 votes.
UTAH DELEGATE. No.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Three votes no.
Utah No. 6, 8 votes.
UTAH DELEGATE. Eight votes no.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Eight votes no.
Utah No. 8, 2 votes. Utah No. 8, 2 votes.
Utah 14, 3 votes.
UTAH DELEGATE. No.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Three votes no.
Vermont 15, 2 votes.
VERMONT DELEGATE. Two votes no.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Two votes no.
From the Department of Vermont, one vote.
VERMONT DELEGATE. One vote no.
KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote no.
Virginia No. 2, 2 votes. Virginia No. 2, 2 votes.
Virginia No. 6, 3 votes.

Virginia Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Virginia No. 10, 7 votes.

Virginia Delegate. Seven no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Seven votes no.

Virginia No. 19, 4 votes.

Virginia Delegate. Three no, one yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three no, one yes.

Virginia 26, 4 votes. Virginia 26, 4 votes.

Virginia 46, 2 votes. Virginia 46, 2 votes.

Washington No. 1, 8 votes. Washington No. 1, 8 votes.

Washington No. 11, one vote.

Virginia Delegate. You didn't call the Department of Virginia.

Kit Seal Feighner. Pardon?

Virginia Delegate. Department of Virginia.

Kit Seal Feighner. I can't hear you.

Virginia Delegate. Department of Virginia.

Kit Seal Feighner. The Department of Virginia is not registered. Check with the credentials committee. You may not have cleared.

Washington No. 11, one vote.

Washington No. 46, 4 votes.

Washington Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 4 votes no.

The Department of Washington, one vote.

Washington Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

West Virginia No. 2, 12 votes.

West Virginia Delegate. Twelve no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Twelve no.

Washington No. 6, 8 votes—I mean West Virginia No. 6, 8 votes.

West Virginia Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Eight votes no.

West Virginia No. 9, 2 votes.

West Virginia Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Two votes no.

West Virginia 52, 3 votes.

West Virginia Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

The Department of West Virginia, one vote.

West Virginia Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Wisconsin No. 1, 6 votes.

Wisconsin Delegate. Six votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Six votes no.

Wisconsin No. 3, 4 votes.

Wisconsin Delegate. Four votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Wisconsin No. 9, 3 votes.

Wisconsin Delegate. Three votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Three votes no.

Wisconsin No. 17, 4 votes.

Wisconsin Delegate. Four votes no.

Kit Seal Feighner. Four votes no.

Wisconsin No. 45, 3 votes.

WISCONSIN DELEGATE. Three votes no.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Three votes no.

Wisconsin No. 50, 2 votes.

WISCONSIN DELEGATE. No.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Two votes no.

Wisconsin No. 58, 2 votes. Wisconsin 58, 2 votes.

Wisconsin.

The Department of Wisconsin, one vote.

WISCONSIN DELEGATE. No.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote no.

Puerto Rico No. 9, 4 votes. Puerto Rico No. 9, 4 votes.

National officers. Sally Wilton, National Commander.

Commander WILTON. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Betty Wimmer, national senior vice commander, one vote.

BETTY WIMMER. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Loneita Shoemaker, national first junior vice commander, one vote.

LONEITA SHOEMAKER. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Katherine Pearson, national second junior vice commander.

KATHERINE PEARSON. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Rose Schilpp, national third junior vice commander.

ROSE SCHILPP. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Shelia Allred, national fourth junior vice commander.

SHELIA ALLRED. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Lucille McCarthy, national judge advocate.

LUCILLE MCCARTHY. Yes.

Commander WILTON. One vote yes.

Mary Ellen Sissman, national chaplain. She left.

Florence Daley, junior past national commander.

FLORENCE DALEY. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Patricia Schroeder, national history chairman.

PAT SCHROEDER. One vote yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Louise Rapisand, national hospital chairman, one vote.

LOUISE RAPISAND. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Louise Ellis, national VAVS chairman.

LOUISE ELLIS. One vote yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Bonita Duell, national deputy VAVS chairman.

BONITA DUELL. No.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote no.

Phyllis Greaney, national education loan fund director.

PHYLLIS GREANEY. Yes.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. One vote yes.

Past national commanders. Frieda Francis Jones, one vote.

Frieda Francis Jones. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.
Catherine Early, one vote.
Catherine Early. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.
Florence Green.
Florence Green. One vote no.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Pauline Wright.
Pauline Wright. One vote no.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Helen Davis, one vote. Helen Davis, one vote.
Nelda Wilson, one vote.
Nelda Wilson. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.
Dorothy Van Hoy, one vote.
Dorothy Van Hoy. One vote no.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Mary Beth Schultz, one vote.
Mary Beth Schultz. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Thelma Williamson.
Thelma Williamson. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Florence Valgardson, one vote.
Florence Valgardson. One vote no.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Maurine Pederson, one vote.
Maurine Pederson. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Eva Rodgers, one vote.
Eva Rodgers. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
NECs. Lillian Shumski, District 1, one vote.
Lillian Shumski. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Stella Gnatek, District 2, one vote.
Stella Gnatek. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Shirley Alessi, District 3, one vote.
Shirley Alessi. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Louise Barile, District 4, one vote.
Louise Barile. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Myrtice Vinson, District 5, one vote.
Myrtice Vinson. Yes.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.
Mary White, District 6.
Mary White. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.
Mary Ellen Patterson, District 7.
Mary Ellen Patterson. No.
Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Elizabeth Foster, District 8.

Elizabeth Foster. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote. Is that no?

Elizabeth Foster. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Elaine Morgan, District 9, one vote.

Elaine Morgan. One vote no.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Addie White, District 10.

Addie White. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Josephine Vigil, District 11, one vote.

Josephine Vigil. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. Laura Ratkie, District 12.

Laura Ratkie. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Irene Quanz, District 13.

Irene Quanz. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Margie Anderson, District 14, one vote.

Margie Anderson. One vote yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Lelia McGinnis, District 16.

Lelia McGinnis. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote no.

Betty Boyd, District 18.

Betty Boyd. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Charlotte George, District 20.

Charlotte George. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

That completes the roll call. [Applause.]

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. I have got some alternate NECs on the last page.

On alternate NECs. Ann Reynolds, District 5, one vote. Ann Reynolds, District 5, registered as an alternate, one vote. She's not here.

Ernie Covington, alternate from District 8, one vote.

Ernie Covington. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Dorothy Clark from District 10, one vote. Dorothy Clark, District 10, one vote.

Mary Horan, District 12, one vote.

Mary Horan. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Joyce Marzenell from District 14, one vote.

Joyce Marzenell. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Alene Goodman, District 20, one.

Alene Goodman. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Arizona No. 2, 6 votes. It was their error. It wasn't called.

Arizona Delegate. 3 no, 3 yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. 3 no, 3 yes for Arizona No. 2.

Iowa 29 has been cleared. 4 votes.

Iowa Delegate. 4 no.

Kit Seal Feighner. No. 4 Department of Georgia, one vote.

Georgia Delegate. Yes.

Kit Seal Feighner. One vote yes.

Virginia 27, 2 votes.

Virginia Delegate. No.

Kit Seal Feighner. 2 votes no. That completes it.

Commander **Wilton**: Ladies, someone asked why we had a roll call vote. We were asked to have a roll call vote and anytime someone asks, you must abide by that decision. We also called all of the units and everyone because you must have two-thirds vote, two-thirds of the votes cast, so that means everybody had to have their chance to vote.

We do not have a two-thirds vote for or against, the motion is lost. [Applause.]

Jean will now continue with the remainder of the bylaws.

Virginia Mitchell. Virginia Mitchell, Unit 80. The question has arisen as to whether No. 2 was voted upon or just a motion made and a second. Could we look back and see on the record if the No. 2 motion read was voted on.

Kit Seal Feighner. It wasn't voted on.

Commander **Wilton.** Well, shame on you for not saying anything. You were right, ladies. Thank you, Virginia.

We'll go back to No. 2. There was discussion. First, second, discussion. Is there any discussion on the No. 2 amendment?

All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton.** Opposed? Thank you. Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 7. Page 14, Article VIII, section 4, second paragraph, correct the spelling of supersede.

Commander Sally, I make the motion that this motion be adopted.

Virginia Mitchell. Virginia Mitchell, I don't have a No. 7.

Donna Sanders. Glendale Unit 20 delegate, I second the motion.

Betty Wimmer. There has been a second to the motion. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Betty Wimmer. Opposed? Carried.

Jean Howard. The next change is No. 8. Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph 2. On last line after roll call insert the word vote.

Madam Commander, I make a motion that this amendment be adopted.

Betty Wimmer. Is there a second?

Betty Slaycom. Betty Slaycom, Department of Delaware seconds that motion.

Betty Wimmer. The motion has been seconded. Any discussion? All in favor? [Audience responded aye.]

Betty Wimmer. Opposed? Carried.

Jean Howard. No. 9. Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph 5, line 5, delete period and add to sentence or state executive committee women.

Madam Commander, I make a motion that this amendment be adopted.

Betty Wimmer. Is there a second?

Virginia Hartman. Virginia Hartman, Unit 7, Pennsylvania. I make a second.

Betty Wimmer. Any discussion?

Marilyn McDonald. Marilyn McDonald, Unit 57, Florida.

Betty Wimmer. Marilyn McDonald.

Marilyn McDonald. I have a question. Does this mean that you cannot serve on a committee as a committee member? You can only be a chairman?

Jean Howard. If you are a chairman you are a committee member.

Marilyn McDonald. What I'm asking is if you are not a chairman, can an officer serve on a committee?

Jean Howard. No.

Marilyn McDonald. Is that what they are on? It says the restriction does not apply to the positions of committee chairman. Does it apply to committee members?

Lucille McCarthy. Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph 5 now reads:

No person shall hold more than one office, elective or appointive in any state department except in those departments which combine the office of adjutant and treasurer. This restriction does not apply to positions of committee chairmen. It means department officers may serve as department chairmen, however, department officers cannot serve as committee members in a state department.

There was an amendment submitted and no one questioned this on the first reading, which they should have and there was an amendment submitted.

Marilyn McDonald. It was not submitted, Lucille. It said state committee women. It was not what I sent in.

Lucille McCarthy. There was another amendment submitted, my dear, to insert.

Marilyn McDonald. Which one was it?

Lucille McCarthy. That's what we're presenting on this. That's what you are now reading, that the state executive committeewoman be added to this.

Marilyn McDonald. But the amendment that I requested said committee member. It does not say state committee.

Lucille McCarthy. That one was defeated by the committee and I believe on the first reading there was several that were, 3 or 4 resolutions submitted to the committee that were—that did not come out of committee and it was so reported. And at that time if any of you would have had an amendment that was not reported out on the first reading is the time that you question what happened.

Marilyn McDonald. I thought we were told we couldn't discuss that.

Lucille McCarthy. On the first reading you could ask what happened to your resolution, which was——

Marilyn McDonald. Can I offer an amendment at this time to this amendment?

LUCILLE McCARTHY. Right now we have a resolution or an amendment at the present time on the floor.

MARILYN McDONALD. May I amend that amendment?

LUCILLE McCARTHY. If you so desire. If you had a resolution, Marilyn, you should have questioned it on the first reading.

MARILYN McDONALD. I was under the understanding that when those first ones were read, that we were not to discuss anything then.

LUCILLE McCARTHY. You don't discuss the amendment as such. You discuss what happened to your resolution because you did not hear it reported out.

MARILYN McDONALD. May I offer that amendment to this amendment at this time, Madam Judge Advocate?

AGNES HENSON. Birmingham Unit No. 4. How can anything be added today when it must be read twice before the convention body?

MARILYN McDONALD. Because this will be an amendment to the amendment.

Madam Chairman.

Commander WILTON. Will you wait just one minute for a ruling, please.

In the past this has been done. It is not really correct but we will recognize you.

MARILYN McDONALD. I may make an amendment to this amendment then?

Commander WILTON. Our convention rules state no, but we have done it in the past, so you may.

MARILYN McDONALD. All right. I move that we amend this amendment to say committee chairmen or members and then you may add the state committeewomen.

Commander WILTON. Does everyone understand this?

[Audience responded no.]

Commander WILTON. We're going to have Jean read the first amendment to the bylaws and then the resolution that was submitted, which was yours, correct?

MARILYN McDONALD. Right.

JEAN HOWARD. The resolution that was submitted and not accepted by the committee reads as such:

Whereas Article VIII, State Organizations, Section 5, paragraph 5, sentence 2, page 15. National bylaws provides for state department officers, elective or appointed, to hold a committee chairmanship and whereas it is at times advantageous for a state department officer, elective or appointed to sit as a member on a state department committee; therefore, be it resolved that Article VIII, State Organizations, Section 5, paragraph 5, sentence 2, page 15, national bylaws be amended by deleting the period after chairmen and adding or committee members. Submitted by department of lower finance committee chairman, Marilyn McDonald.

MARILYN McDONALD. Does this explain, ladies, the way it is now? The only people who can be on these committees are your chairmen. Say you have a conductress and she wants to sit on the ways and means committee or something, she can't do that as a committee member because she is not going to be the chairman. You can't have your treasurer or state finance committee because she can't sit on the committee.

Commander **Wilton**. She shouldn't be quite frankly. Ladies, we're going to find out if this is legal or not before we take a vote on it, and Lucille is coming back right now, so she will be able to give you the answer.

Lucille McCarthy. I have two things to say and No. 1, I was still correct in saying that if you have an amendment, had submitted would be in proper form, even whether its proper form or not to the committee and it was not read on the first reading, then you should have questioned it.

No. 2, as long as your amendment to a proposed bylaw amendment, which we're now reading, which No. 9 was, as long as it is germane or pertains to that particular amendment, you can amend. You can amend from the floor. We've allowed it in the past and we were proper in allowing it now.

Commander **Wilton**. Would you please restate your amendment so the members know what they are voting on. We have to vote on the amendment to the amendment first.

Marilyn McDonald. The amendment to the amendment would add the words or committee members after chairmen and before state committeewomen. So you can be a committee chairman or a committee member.

Lucille McCarthy. Marilyn, in this case, where are you inserting it, before our present amendment or state executive committeewoman or in between or what? We have an amendment that was read on the first amendment as inserting after department chairmen the words or state executive committeewomen. So where do you want it?

Marilyn McDonald. In order for clarification, I think it should be inserted after committee chairmen.

Lucille McCarthy. Then your motion so states?

Marilyn McDonald. Yes, if that's the correct form.

Lucille McCarthy. If that's where it's to be inserted?

Marilyn McDonald. Right. The committee chairmen or committee members or state executive committeewomen.

Lucille McCarthy. So I would think to be proper, then, it would be committee chairmen, committee members, or state executive committeewomen.

Commander **Wilton**. Marilyn, did you move to accept?

Marilyn McDonald. I made a motion that we accept my amendment.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there a second?

Doris McMullin. Doris McMullin, Unit 96, Florida. I so second.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there any discussion?

Donnal Sanders. Madame Commander, Donna Sanders, Glendale Unit 20. Am I misinformed that a committee member is not considered an officer?

Commander **Wilton**. A committee member an officer? No. A committee member is not an officer.

Marilyn McDonald. This paragraph pertains to a person holding more than one office. If a committee member is not an officer, I don't understand how it is pertinent to put a committee member in there under how many offices people can hold.

Lucille McCarthy. The bylaw amendment now reads that you can't hold more than one office, elective or appointive, in a state department except where you combine the adjutant and they treasurer together. Then it goes on to say this restriction does not apply to committee chairmen.

During our discussion within the committee, it was felt by many people that you could stack, if you want to use that word, you could make a committee, all department officers could serve on that committee. But the interpretation of this, the way it now reads that a department officer can only serve as a chairman of committee. A department committee cannot be made up of all department officers, only as a chairman—only a department officer can serve as chairman the way it presently reads.

So that means if you have a committee, we'll say, I will just use one committee, Americanism. One of your junior vice commanders may, because of the bylaws, say that she is the chairman of the Americanism program, but the way this now reads it would be improper to put the senior vice or the treasurer or some of the other others on that particular committee.

Marilyn McDonald. The way I read this what this is saying, is that your positions of committee chairmen are not officers; therefore, an officer may serve as a committee chairmen. I would see it the same way as a member of the committee is not considered an officer so, therefore, she does not fall under the guideline that say she may not sit on a committee.

Lucille McCarthy. You are reversing it. They are not saying that they are officers. We are saying an officer cannot be a member.

Marilyn McDonald. Right. But what I'm——

Lucille McCarthy. We're not counting them as officers.

Marilyn McDonald. Right. So there is at the present time and the way it is written and with the original amendment you are not precluding an officer from sitting in as a member of a committee.

Lucille McCarthy. You can sit in, but according to this they cannot serve as a voting member of the committee.

Marilyn McDonald. Thank you.

Commander **Wilton.** Is there any other discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton.** Opposed?

[Audience responded no.]

Commander **Wilton.** The motion passed. Now we need to vote on the original amendment as amended. This is the way it's going to read as amended.

Unidentified Person. Madam Commander, is it proper at this time to move to table this for future discussion? Let it be worked out at a another convention. I so move that it be tabled.

Frances Ellwood. National Commander. Frances Ellwood, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, No. 10, I second that.

Commander **Wilton.** I'm sorry but the amendment to the amendment was already passed. So now we have to vote on the amendment as it was read and the addition and amended. Did you make the motion. Jean?

Jean Howard. I will have to read it. It will now read, committee members or state executive committeewomen.

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Commander Sally, I make a motion that this amendment be adopted.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there a second?

Virginia Mitchell. Being close to the mike, Virginia Mitchell, Unit 80, I second that motion.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Good girl. Motion passed.

Jean Howard. No. 10, page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, insert as new paragraph No. 6. A state executive committeewoman is not considered a state officer. Her term of office shall be the same as the state department officers.

Madam Commander, I make a motion that this change be adopted.

Commander **Wilton**. Go ahead, Nancy. The motion has been made.

Nancy Carranite. I second the motion. Nancy Carranite, past department commander.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 11. Page 15, Section 4, line 4, add S to notification.

Madam Commander, I make a motion that this change be adopted.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there a second?

Stella Gnatek. Madam Commander, Stella Gnatek, NEC, Department of New York.

Commander **Wilton**. Stella Gnatek, NEC.

Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 12. Page 16, Section 6, line 3. Delete comma, insert or between resignation and inability.

Commander Sally, I move the adoption—I move that this amendment be adopted.

Mary Cappell. Mary Cappell, Unit 90, I second.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 13. Page 16, Article VIII, Section 8, paragraph 1. On lines 2 and 4 insert the word state between the and department.

Madam Commander, I move that this change be adopted.

Betty Slaycom. Department of Delaware, Betty Slaycom seconds that motion.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. 14. Page 17, Article VIII, Section II, first sentence now reads: Warrants or checks requests should be used by a state department. Amend by changing to read:

Warrants or check requests should be used by a state department, signed by the state commander, countersigned by the state adjutant or chairman of the state finance committee.

If you will recall, this is the one that I read the correction to that had been left off the printing so just, our copy adds or chairman of the state finance committee.

Madam Commander, I move this change be adopted.

Commander **Wilton**. Nancy.

Nancy Carranite. Nancy Carranite, past department commander of Ohio, I second.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard: 15. Page No. 18, Article X, Section 4. Amend by deleting present section 4 and substituting the following:

Upon revocation of a local unit charter or local unit becoming inactive, the charter shall revert to national headquarters and all property, money and effects of the unit shall revert to the state department to be held in trust for a period of 18 months. In the event the unit charter is not reissued within the period of 18 months, said property shall become the absolute property of the state department.

Upon revocation of a state department charter or the charter of a local unit where there is no state department, the charters and all property, money and effects shall revert to national headquarters to be held in trust for a period of 18 months. In the event the charter of the state department or local unit is not reissued within a period of 18 months, said property shall become the absolute property of national headquarters.

Commander Sally, I move that this amendment, change be adopted.

Commander **Wilton**. Is there a second?

Mary Patterson. Mary Patterson, 7th District NEC will second that motion.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 16. Page 19, Article X, add new Section 5 to read:

Upon suspension of a state department or a local unit, no meeting shall be held in the name of the department or unit except for the sole purpose of the discussion of the cause, effect or removal of the penalty. No funds of the department or unit shall be expended or obligations incurred during and while the order of suspension is in force and effect.

Section 5 would then become Section 6. Section 6 then becomes Section 7. Section 7 then becomes Section 8.

Madam Commander, I move that this change be adopted.

Mary Howell. Mary Howell, Department of Iowa seconds that motion.

Commander **Wilton**. You will need to come to the microphone. We cannot hear you. If there's someone closer if you don't mind, go ahead and do it.

Louise Barile. Louise Barile, NEC District 4, seconds that motion.

Commander Wilton. Is there any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 17. Page 21, Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph 3, line 2, change to read:

Of the above, any elected state officer or district.

Madam Commander, I make a motion that this amendment be adopted.

Commander Wilton. Is there a second?

Margie Anderson. Margie Anderson, NEC, 14th District. I second.

Commander Wilton. Any discussion?

Unidentified Delegate. Madam Commander, would you ask the chairman to read that in its entirety because I can't tell if there's supposed to be three periods after that district or whether it just stops right there. Just ask her to read it as amended, please.

Jean Howard. Let me read the whole paragraph. Be amended: The state executive committeewomen should be installed by any of the above, any elected state officer or district, region or zone commander.

Commander Wilton. Any other discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. 18. Page 21, Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph 5, line one. Insert incoming between the and the commander.

Madam Commander, I move the adoption of this amendment.

Sylvia Deceasor. Sylvia Deceasor, Unit 186, from Panelville, New York. I second that motion.

Commander Wilton. Any discussion? Lou, are you waiting to be recognized?

All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 19. Page 22, Article XV, line 5. Delete the at the end of the line.

Madam Commander, I highly recommend the adoption of this amendment.

Commander Wilton. Is there a second?

Lou Landers. Lou Landers, Department of Arizona. I second the motion.

Commander Wilton. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 20. Page 29, Article V, Section 2. Insert sentence omitted in last printing. This will be the last sentence in Section 2. In either case, one member should be an elected officer.

Madam Commander, I move the adoption of this change.

Carol McNeal. Madam Commander, Carol McNeal of Chapter 57 of Pennsylvania seconds the motion.

Commander Wilton. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander Wilton. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. 21. Page 34, Article IX, Section 1, paragraph 2, line 2. Insert senior between a and member.

Madam Commander, I move that this change be adopted.

Jean Schwig. Madam Commander, Jean Schwig, Unit 1, Pennsylvania. I second it.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. No. 22. Page 35, Article XII, Section 1. Correct to read the same as Article XV, Section 1, page 22. Delete least one calendar day and insert a business session.

Madam Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

Commander **Wilton**. Second?

Terrie Houth. Terry Houth, Department of Rhode Island. I will second that motion.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. 23. Page 43, fourth paragraph under chaplain, line 5, you should read your.

Commander Sally, I move the adoption of this change.

Commander **Wilton**. Second?

Beryl Seaman. Beryl Seaman, Unit 33, Louisiana seconds it.

Commander **Wilton**. Any discussion? All in favor?

[Audience responded aye.]

Commander **Wilton**. Opposed? Motion carried.

Jean Howard. That completes the changes in the constitution and bylaws.

Betty Boyd. Madam Commander, may I approach the podium? Betty Boyd.

Commander **Wilton**. Yes.

I think that we owe Jean and her committee, Lucille, the adviser, a standing ovation. Didn't they do a good job? [Applause and standing ovation.]

Betty Boyd. I'm Betty Boyd of Arizona and I'm bringing a check for Freedom's Foundation from Unit No. 1.

Commander **Wilton**. Thank you very much, Betty, and Unit 1. At this time we will have the report of the nominating committee. I hope you-all know if you see some of us disappearing up here, which you already did, you know why. Dorothy Van Hoy, past national commander.

Dorothy Van Hoy. National commander, national officers and members.

First, I would like to introduce the members who served on the nominating committee. I will introduce them by districts.

Lillian Shumski, District 1. Would you hold your applause until they are all standing, please. Lillian Gnatek, District 2—I'm sorry, Stella. Shirley Alessi, District 3; Patricia Prone, District 4; Nell Pittman, District 5; Gladys Attalow, District 6; Mary Beth Schultz, District 7; Virginia Mitchell, District 8; District 9 is myself, Dorothy Van Hoy; Ruth Ike, District 10; Florence Valgardson, District 11; Lillian Telletski, District 12; Ruth Hammer, District 13; Marjorie Anderson, District 14; Ruth Demeli, District 16; Betty Kennison, District 18; Alene Goodman, District 20. Our advisor was Florence Daley, past national commander. [Applause.]

My thanks to each of you for your devoted, loyal and untowering hours of work. The committee held its first meeting on Monday afternoon at 2 p.m. in Salon 808. Future meetings were held as required. Several suggestions for future resumes are given to the national department for their consideration.

After much consideration and deliberation, the committee is pleased to present the following slate for officers of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for the year 1985-86.

Commander, Betty J. Wimmer, District 12; senior vice commander, Loenita Shoemaker, District 20; first junior vice commander, Katherine Pearson, District 14; second junior vice commander, Rose Schilpp, District 9; third junior vice commander, Shelia Allred, District 5; fourth junior vice commander, Claudia Roy, District 1. Chaplain, Myrtice Vinson, District 5; national judge advocate, Lucille McCarthy, District 5.

This report is submitted by Dorothy Van Hoy as chairman, Mary Beth Schultz, secretary. Thank you, commander.

Commander WILTON. Dorthy, we want to thank you and your committee. This is probably our most difficult committee and you spend many hours and a very special thanks to all of you. [Applause.]

Before we go into our nomination, it is my wish as national commander that no one stands up and asks to accept the slate. I am a firm believer that if any member in here feels they are qualified to run, they have the right to be nominated. You pay your money and you are the ones who have the voice on this floor. Thank you. [Applause.]

You have heard the report of the committee on nominations. Betty Wimmer has been nominated by the committee for the office of national commander. Are there any other nominations?

LILLIAN TELLETSKI. Madam Commander, may I approach your station?

Commander WILTON. Will you wait one minute, please. Are there any other nominations? You may approach the podium. If there are no other nominations, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national commander.

LILLIAN TELLETSKI. Thank you, Madam Commander. I am Lillian Telletski of PBC, the department judge advocate from Milwaukee. I am very pleased and proud to have the honor of nominating my very dear friend, Betty Wimmer, who I've known for over 25 years for a national office. Betty is a charter member and founder of the G.C. Grovene Unit No. 64 in Wausau, Wisconsin. She served as the unit's first commander and held this office for 7 years. She is presently serving as unit adjutant and state executive committeewoman. She has also served as unit treasurer as well as most chairmanships of her unit. She has worked as forget-me-not chairman for 15 years, was president first district commander and held this office for 5 years.

In the department Betty has served the Department of Wisconsin as Americanism, community service, child welfare, legislative, junior activities and membership chairman. She served the department as chaplain, second and first junior vice commander, senior vice commander and as department commander in '76–'77. She has also served as department adjutant for four terms and is currently serving as department finance chairman.

On the national level, she has served as the constitution and bylaws committee, national hospital chairman, fourth junior vice, third junior vice commander, second junior vice commander, first junior vice commander and presently a senior vice commander.

Betty was first eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary through her first husband, Leroy Bud Schultz, a severely handicapped veteran of World War II. Following Bud's death in 1970 Betty continued her commitment to our disabled veterans in her local and state department. It was there she met and married a disabled veteran of the Korean conflict, Rupert G. Wimmer. Betty and Rup have 3 adult children.

Betty attended Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and worked as a business manager of a large dental clinic in Wausau for the past 15 years. She is now retired.

In addition to her activities in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, she serves on the board at North Central Technical Institute, Wausau, Wisconsin, for medical, dental secretaries science. She is a member of the League of Women Voters, International Consumer Credit Association, Chambers of Commerce Credit Bureau, the United Business Association and several community organizations as well as the auxiliaries of three other veterans organizations and the YWCA. She is very active with the drug abuse program and serves as the director of the Health Care Center, Wausau, Wisconsin, and is on the board of directors for the Jannell House, which is a halfway home.

On behalf of the Department of Wisconsin, I am proud to nominate Betty J. Wimmer for national commander for the year 1985–86. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander **WILTON**. Betty, will you accept?

BETTY WIMMER. I thought you'd never ask. Yes. [Applause.]

Commander **WILTON**. Will the national adjutant please cast a unanimous ballot for national commander.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. By the power vested in me as national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Betty Wimmer from Wisconsin for national commander for 1985–86. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander **WILTON**. For the office of national senior vice commander, Loneita Shoemaker has been nominated by the committee. Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations, I declare nominations closed and will ask the adjutant to cast a unanimous ballot for Loneita Shoemaker from Arkansas. Will you accept, Loneita?

SHEILA BAKER. Madam Commander, may I approach your station, Sheila Baker, state of Arkansas.

Commander **WILTON**. You may.

SHEILA BAKER. I'm Sheila Baker, state department for the Department of Arkansas, and I've been told by Loneita, keep it short, no flowers.

National Commander Sally, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests.

Arkansas is a natural therefore it's Loneita's naturals give of themselves and abilities to give worthwhile efforts.

Today I wish to pass the nomination of one of our true leaders who has chosen the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary as her arena of her endeavor. Loneita Shoemaker has exhibited her executive ability and her tenure in 33 years in a demanding management position. She has also been most active in your community through involvement in her church, in women's executive organizations and in the past year in the Arkansas School of the Deaf. A major involvement in the past year has been her work with the Arkansas handicapped children and Special Olympics.

Her knowledge of the DAV auxiliary stems from her steady progress through the local unit to the department and national level.

Nationally, she has served on the finance, community service, Americanism, junior activities, legislation and membership committee as chairman in 1978. 1979 she served as 14th District national executive committeewoman. In 1981 she was elected fourth junior vice commander, 1982 third junior vice, 1983 second junior vice commander and 1984 as first junior vice commander. Loneita's late husband, Jack, was a life member of Chapter 7 from Little Rock, Arkansas.

It is a great privilege for me to place the name of Loneita Shoemaker in nomination for the position of senior vice commander of the national Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. [Applause.]

Kit Seal Feighner. By powers vested in me as national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Loneita Shoemaker from the Department of Arkansas for the office of national senior vice commander for 1985–86. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander **Wilton.** Loneita, will you accept the office?

Loneita Shoemaker. I sure will.

Commander **Wilton.** Katherine Pearson has been nominated for national first junior vice commander. Are there any other nominations? If there are not other nominations, I declare the nominations closed and you may approach the podium.

Shirley Larson. Madam Commander, national officers, chairmen, directors, national executive committeewomen, past national commanders, delegates and guests.

I from Minnesota Unit 32 am Shirley Larson. I'm very proud to nominate Katherine Pearson as our first national junior vice commander. Her eligibility stems from her husband, Lyle, who is a life member of Mankato Disabled American Veterans No. 10 and also a past national commander.

Katherine has held all elective offices and chairmanships in her unit and is currently serving as adjutant and treasurer. She is a regular volunteer at St. Peter's state hospital and Security Hospital.

She has held all elective and appointed offices of the department of Minnesota and serving as Department treasurer. She has served as a national executive committeewoman and our District VAVS chairman. She has served as national second and third junior vice commander. Also national publicity chairman, national junior activities chairman, national VAVS representative and chairman and national legislative chairman.

Therefore, with all her capabilities we, of Minnesota, and District 14 are very happy to nominate Katherine Pearson for first junior vice commander. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations, I declare the office of first junior vice commander closed and ask our national adjutant to cast a ballot.

Kit Seal Feighner. By the power vested in me as national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I hereby case a unanimous ballot for Katherine Pearson from Mankato, Minnesota, for the office of first junior vice commander for the 1985–86 year. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander Wilton. Rose Schilpp has been nominated for the office of national second junior vice commander. Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations, I declare the nominations closed and the adjutant will cast the ballot.

Dorothy Van Hoy. May I approach your station, please.

Commander Wilton. We're not all of us quite here this morning.

Dorothy Van Hoy. National commander, national officers and delegates to this convention. I would like to submit the name of Rose Marie Schilpp, a life member of Ernestine Shuman, Kansas City, Missouri. Her eligibility is through her husband, Jim, who is also a life member.

Rose, since her membership in our auxiliary has been very active. For two years she moved to Iowa and she was very active in the Iowa auxiliary, coming back to our unit in Kansas City. She has held all of the offices, many of the chairmanships. We did not have a department charter at the time, but she was our Missouri rally chairman and very active in the Department of Missouri.

Rose is as her name applies. She is a Rose to our unit and with this, I would like to submit the name of Rose Marie Schilpp for national second junior vice commander. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. Thank you, Dorothy. Do your stuff.

Kit Seal Feighner. By the power vested in me as national adjutant, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Rose Schilpp from Missouri for the office of second junior vice commander. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Comander Wilton. I didn't know where my family was. I know now.

Shelia Allred has been nominated for the office of national third junior vice commander. Are there any other nominations? Would you please approach the podium, please.

And quit pinching my baby.

Pansy Cundiff. Madam Commander, national officers, delegates and guests. On behalf of the state of North Carolina, I am proud to endorse Shelia Allred for the office of national third junior vice commander based on other qualifications and many years of experience as a member and a leader of this auxiliary.

Shelia first became a member of the junior auxiliary at age 9 and has remained an active and productive member since that time. She is a life member of Concord Unit 27 and has held all local and state offices, including auxiliary department commander of North Carolina for one year and five months. Shelia has served as judge advocate for our department for the past six years. President of the past department commanders club for two years. Shelia was national executive committeewoman for the 5th District for two years ago.

She has served on various committees during the nine national conventions she has attended, including national finance committee two years. Shelia presently serves as president of the Southern Caucus breakfast, national community service chairman and national fourth junior vice commander. Shelia holds membership in the American Legion and VFW auxiliaries. She is a charter member of the American Business Womens Association and North Carolina Council of the International Readers Association. However, the Disabled American Veterans and its auxiliary are her main priorities.

She is active in the community with the Cobarris Historic Society, Team Center, Cannon Memorial Children's Art and Exhibit and a member of the board of trustees for the great Piedmont chapter of the national sudden infants death syndrome foundation.

Shelia is a graduate of the Convera county school system and Rowan Technical Institute. She attended the University of North Carolina in Charlotte where she earned a certificate in early childhood development. She is presently employed with the Kannapolis City school system.

Shelia's mother is a past department commander. Her husband, Jim, served 2 terms as department commander, and her daughter, Terra, is commander of the junior auxiliary in Concord and is a past forget-me-not queen in North Carolina.

If elected, shelia will fulfill the obligations of national junior vice commander with honor and dignity. Thank you.

Commander WILTON. Are there any other nominations? I'm sorry. We have another lady up here. I apologize.

NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATE. Madam Commander. national officers and delegates. It's my privilege as a long time friend to give her seconding speech. It has been a pleasure to work with her many years. Her mother helped me when I came into the auxiliary many, many years ago.

Shelia was a junior member at that time. She has worked hard. I have worked with her on committees. She and my husband, Charles, were department commanders the same year. They worked well together and she has always been a supporter of the auxiliary. She is fun and energetic and if you have noticed her mind, her wheels are turning at all times thinking of things for us to do, especially skits when we are at the national meetings and in the state meetings. We love her in North Carolina.

You know the song reach out and touch someone, then this is what Shelia does at all times. We had hoped that you will support her as the state of North Carolina is gladly to do. [Applause.]

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. By the power vested in me as the national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Shelia Allred of North Carolina for the office of national third junior vice commander for the 1985–86 year. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander WILTON. It looks like we may have a new baby this year. For the office of national fourth junior vice commander, Claudia Roy. Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations I declare the nominations closed. Do we have someone who would like to come up and tell us? Here we are.

Kit Seal Feighner. Claudia, would you please come forward.

Vermont Delegate. Madam Commander, national officers, delegates, friends.

I am very pleased and proud to nominate Claudia Roy as the national fourth junior vice commander.

Claudia has been a member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for 12 years. She is a life member and a charter member of John Blake Unit 15, Bridlespur, Vermont.

On a unit level she has served as hospital chairman, membership chairman, adjutant and commander. On a department level, she has served as hospital chairman, adjutant, VAVS Department convention chairman and commander. At the 1985 national convention in New Orleans, she chaired the VAVS convention committee. She is this year's unit adjutant. She is a registered volunteer and Department VAVS representative at the medical center in White River Junction, Vermont.

She has been employed by J.E. Mann, Incorporated, in Bridlespur, Vermont for 17 years where she is a manager of the intimate apparel department and has the support of her employers.

Claudia graduated from Thayer High School in Winchester, New Hampshire, and took courses at Elliott Community Hospital in Keene, New Hampshire. She has been married for 21 years and has the love and support of her husband, Jim.

On behalf of the Department of Vermont, I am so pleased and proud—I'm going to break up—to place Claudia Roy for national fourth junior vice commander for the year 1985–86. She is a sister to us all. We hope you will support her in her future endeavors. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Kit Seal Feighner. By the powers vested in me as national adjutant, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Claudia Roy from the Department of Vermont for the office of fourth junior vice commander for the 1985–86 year. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander **Wilton.** Myrtice Vinson has been nominated for the office of national chaplain. Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations, I declare the nominations closed for national chaplain and Myrtice, would you please come up, and Kit, will you please cast the ballot. We have some ladies over here. This is a seconding speech. She has already been nominated.

Jane Ashley. National commander, national officers, delegates one and all. I'm Jane Ashley, the current commander of the Department of Georgia.

At the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary of the Department of Georgia convention, the entire delegation enthusiastically endorsed Myrtice Vinson of Raymond Williams Unit No. 50 in Macon, Georgia, for a national office.

She has served her local unit, the Department of Georgia auxiliary and the national 5th District with pride, distinction and dedication. Her eligibility stems from her husband, Cleo, who was in the Korean conflict and she has also has a brother who was wounded in Vietnam.

Because of her years of experience and dedication, we whole heartedly support her in this endeavor. She has gained much knowledge about the DAV auxiliary over the years and we feel she will be an asset to our great organization.

Therefore, it is with great pride that Unit 50 and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Department of Georgia endorse her for national chaplain. We believe she will make us a great inspirational leader. Thank you. [Applause.]

Kit Seal Feighner. By the power vested in me as national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Myrtice Vinson from Georgia for the office of national chaplain for the 1985–86 year. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander **Wilton.** Welcome aboard, Myrtice.

For the office of national judge advocate, I don't know how to pronounce this name, d'judge, Lucille McCarthy has been nominated. Are there any other nominations? Are you sure? Okay. Don't say you didn't have your chance. If there are no other nominations, I declare the office of nominations for judge advocate closed.

Nell Pittman from Florida.

Nell Pittman. National Commander, national officers and delegates.

Lucille McCarthy from St. Petersburg, Florida, my home state, as past department commander I don't know how much I could say about her. I could stand up here for 3 or 4 hours and bore you.

On a unit level, Lucille has held elective offices in Nebraska, Buffalo, New York, Massachusetts, Unit 9 in Florida and she organized Gateway 127. On a department level she helped organize the Department of Nebraska and held offices of the Department of Florida and served as our Department adjutant for two years and other appointed positions.

On the national level, she was NEC District 9, second junior vice commander, VAVS chairman, community service chairman, chaplain, first junior vice commander, senior vice commander and national commander in '60–'61 she was District 1 VAVS chairman, '65–'67 she was national deputy VAVS chairman and from '67–'68 national judge advocate. She attends all of the national conventions, the national fall conferences and is at our call at any time we need her.

What we are looking for is dedication, leadership and caring. Ladies, I give you the lady that has these qualities, Lucille McCarthy, national judge advocate, 1985–86. [Applause.]

Kit Seal Feighner. By the powers vested in me as national adjutant and as a friend for the past 38 years, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Lucille McCarthy from the Department of Florida for the office of national judge advocate for 1985–86. [Applause and standing ovation.]

Commander **Wilton.** We ain't asking her if she will accept. She is already elected.

We have a group of ladies who serve us every year. They spend many hours practicing and do a terrific job and it is now time for the introduction of our pages.

Oh, I will dismiss the tellers and if there are any other committees that have not been dismissed, you are now dismissed and thank you a million. [Applause.]

Addie White. Commander Sally, Kit, national officers, past national commanders and to all of you very important people out there.

I thank Commander Sally for affording me the opportunity of being a part of her national family as sergeant at arms. It certainly has been a learning experience for me. I would like to take this time to thank the flag bearers of the various departments for making this a memorable event in the opening session of this national convention.

To the pages, 76 trombones and a street parade would not do honors to these ladies for the last four days. They have been absolutely super and I thank them for their untiring efforts. They have proved that together we can make the difference.

At this time I would like to introduce them to you and I would like for you to hold your applause until the end and join me in giving these ladies a thunderous applause for a job well done. [Applause.]

Louise Ellis from Arizona. Sally Roselinski from Wisconsin, Deborah Doyle from Arkansas, Sharon Kreamer from Minnesota, Eleanor Bales from Missouri, Linda Barbee from North Carolina, Christine Johnson from Florida, Maxine Horton had to leave due to a plane scheduling. Next we have Elaine Morgan from Nebraska, Jo Ann Spaulding from Michigan, Shirley Larson from Minnesota, Marie Reddenour from Nebraska, Dorothy Young from Massachusetts, Helen Shodell from Florida.

Please join me in giving these ladies applause. [Applause.]

Thank you very much.

Commander **Wilton.** Addie, to you, my very, very special thanks for a job well done by you and all of the pages. Thank you. [Applause.]

At this time we are now ready for the installation of new officers. Would everyone who is going to be installed please go to the back of the room. The national executive committeewomen and alternates do not need to go to the back of the room, just the officers. I goofed. We will call the NECs to be installed.

At this time I would like to introduce the installing officer, Past National Commander, Maria Tedrow. [Applause.]

Maria Tedrow. Thank you, Sally. It's a privilege and an honor to install. I do hope that you will forgive my voice. It's a little raspy today.

You are requested to remain silent during the ceremony of installation; and conductress, you will take your place to the right of the altar. Forget the conductress.

The adjutant will call the roll of each of the new officers to be installed and as each officer's name is called, she will take her place to the left of the conductress.

Kit Seal Feighner. National Commander, Betty Wimmer; National Senior Vice Commander, Loneita Shoemaker; National First Junior Vice Commander, Katherine Pearson; National Second Junior Vice Commander, Rose Schilpp; National Third Junior Vice Commander, Shelia Allred; National Fourth Junior Vice Commander, Claudia Roy; National Chaplain, Myrtice Vinson; National Judge Advocate, Lucille McCarthy; Junior Past National Commander, Sally Wilton; District 1, Mary Bloom, NEC, Irene Billidue, alternate. District 2, Stella Gnatek, NEC; Dorothy Bednarczyk, alternate; District 3, Shirley Kayte, NEC; Alma Tooshi, alternate; District 4, Louise Barile, NEC; Barbara Sutton, alternate; District 5, Shirley Alessi, NEC, alternate, Virginia Hartman, District 6, Mary White, NEC; alternate Lucy Johnson; District 7, Christine Johnson, NEC; alternate, Fanny Proctor; District 8, Elizabeth Foster, NEC; alternate, Ernie Covington; District 9, Mable Hendricks, NEC; alternate, Virginia Walsh; District 10, Addie White, NEC; alternate, Dorothy Clark; District 11, June Marshall, NEC; alternate, Virginia Gleason; District 12, Laura Ratkie, NEC; alternate, Mary Horan; District 13, Mildred Viar; alternate, Martha Tucker, District 14, Marjorie Anderson, alternate, Joyce Marzenell; District 15, Virginia Kanard, alternate, Mary Ellen Sissman; District 16, Leland McGinnis; alternate, Ruth Demele, District 17, Dorothy Dudeutsch, alternate, Margaret Sanchez; District 18, Betty Boyd; alternate, Madeleine Blakeley; District 19, June Abbott; alternate, Agnes Blankenship; District 20, Charlotte George; alternate, Ailene Goodman; District 21, Dorothy Hunt; alternate, Jessie Dunn; National Adjutant, L. Kit Seal Feighner.

MARIA TEDROW. The fact that you have been selected by the members of this auxiliary for your respective offices shows that they have confidence in your ability and that they feel assured you will strictly and impartially discharge all duties incumbent upon you. They confide the welfare of this auxiliary to your keeping, and they are expected at all times to respect your position. Let their confidence therefor be fully justified by your fidelity. Let us all remember gratefully the heroism of our veterans whose name we proudly bear. Realizing fully your responsibilities, are you willing to assume the obligation of your office?

[Officers responded I am.]

MARIA TEDROW. Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the obligation of your respective office.

I, having been selected, as an officer of this auxiliary, do most solemnly pledge myself, to faithfully and impartially perform, in letter and spirit, all duties of the office I am about to enter. I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto to the best of my ability and means. When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender to her all of the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm.

You may lower your hand. To the members of this auxiliary, today you have cast a vote for the officers that will see you through for the year 1985–1986. It can only be a good year for these officers with your support. You have the talent here. You have this court back there and together it will make a difference.

May I now introduce to you the new officers for the year 1985–1986. [Applause.]

Would the NECs please be seated and let the officers stand so pictures can be taken. Would the sergeant at arms please have the husbands and families of the officers escorted to the front, please.

And at this time I would like to say to Betty, I was not able to talk too much today, but I swear that when she asked me to install, it was such a privilege that if I would have had to, I would have used cue cards and had you read them.

And it's an exciting day for me, I won't say it's as exciting as it was when I went in as national commander but it's close. My son has always said that he used to call me when he had a good day. He always said, mom, I had a golden day today. Well, Betty you have got a golden day today and I'm sure you will have a golden year. Thanks. [Applause.]

Kit Seal Feighner: While the men are coming up, would the past national commanders form at this other microphone at the other aisle. [Husbands and families of officers escorted.]

Commander **Wilton**. I asked Betty if she is going to do a little speech. She said, sure, I am. I don't know why.

Come on, Betty. Congratulations.

You have my complete support and I am proud of you.

Betty Wimmer. Thank you, Sally. I am proud of Sally, as we all are. Before I read my 25 pages here, already I'm saying that, I just want to say thank you, each and everyone of you. It is with deep humility and great pride that I accept this leadership roll you have bestowed upon me as your national commander. Excuse me. But you see what she did to me already down here at the right. I can't talk any better than Maria could.

This is really the impossible dream come true. Never did I realize that as a young bride many years ago my marriage to a disabled veteran would possibly lead me to such leadership heights. It has given me a purpose and a direction in my life that I thank the Lord for each day of my life, and I believe that my association with this organization has made a better person of Betty J. Wimmer.

There are many things that I would like to say to you and so many people that I would like to thank for this honor and privilege of service to this greatest organization in the country.

For now, I will only single out one person, if I might, and that's my husband, Rupert, because Rupert has instilled in me confidence that I thought had been destroyed in myself. He has shown me that love makes everything possible. His devotion, his understanding and his patience, sometimes not patience that I would like especially when I go shopping, but the patience are always there. And to all of you who have made this possible through your great love and your untiring efforts on behalf of the auxiliary and its great objectives and goals, I say thank you.

You will have to realize I can't see too well, but Rup, don't let it worry you, I can always spot a blond when you are smiling. [Laughter.]

I followed the footsteps of many very talented women with unusual leadership capabilities. I hope and I do plan to measure up in every aspect. This will be possible only through you who have given them such tremendous backing and support in all of their endeavors.

I now ask you to reaffirm your dedication to our purposes. It will take all of us working for the common good to achieve our 1985–86 goals. And what are our goals? Certainly, membership must come first. We must set our membership goals high. The parent organization that set almost staggering goals three years ago when they established the million member mark. It seemed all but impossible based on the past record, yet they did achieve that goal. This year with new programs, renewed efforts and constant attention to those goals by everyone at every level, it paid off for them and it will pay off for us. We should set our goal at double our member by June 30th, 1986. We will need new programs, renewed efforts and constant attention to these goals by everyone if we are to possibly achieve them. We must not only attract and recruit young women as members, women between the ages of 18 and 35, but we must get them involved and groom them for leadership rolls in this auxiliary.

We know that an individual can't leap from unit commander to national commander in one giant step. It takes time to polish the skills, to learn the programs and to know how they best work, to develop a rapport with others in their units, the districts and the department. But it should not take too long, girls, or we're going to lose them. Harmony should be more than just a word in our auxiliary. It should become a way of life. We need harmony within our ranks, harmony between our units and our chapters, between our departments for the same objectives and also at the same time.

It troubles me, ladies, deeply whenever I hear of a unit and a chapter having disputes, when a unit works counterpart to their objectives of the responsible organization chapter. There's no place for us—this is no place for us to draw battle lines. We need each one of us and we depend upon each other. I ask that you join with me to bring this all into the harmony picture, working for the same objectives. We need to be gracious and we need to be loving and we need to be caring in this endeavor.

In a short while, we will be announcing our programs and our goals for the new year. I once heard a very simplistic formula for success. The very successful businesswoman explained it so simply. Plan your work and work your plan. Ladies, this is what I hope to do with your help and your support. Reach out and touch somebody in your own special way.

Again, I want to thank each and everyone of you assembled here for the confidence that you have placed in me by electing me your national commander. God bless all of us as we begin a new chapter in the life of our great auxiliary. Thank you. God loves each and everyone of you and so do I. [Applause and standing ovation.]

I would have to introduce my girls from Wisconsin. Will you please stand. I love each and everyone of you and your support, your guidance throughout these many years. Sometimes I haven't listened, sometimes I have perhaps been a little mouthy when I shouldn't have, but I do love you all. Thank you.

I also feel the same way about Illinois and about Michigan because you too were behind me. Would Illinois and Michigan stand. [Applause.]

Thank you. But I feel—my son is not able to be with me today. It was a toss up and, of course, I had to go along with this. He just—he and his wife just purchased a home and he said to me, mom, I just can't make it. Finances aren't going to allow it and I can't take any time away from my job. My reply to my son was, I'm going to miss you terribly, Craig, because I would like to have you be here so that you and I and Rup, in our own way, can look up to the heavens and say to your dad, did you ever believe this would happen? But I also told him that I have many, many friends out there, although they can't take your place, but they take a place in my heart that I will never, ever forget and I thank you ladies for that.

And now without further ado, I would like you to meet my husband, Rupert. Rup, R.G. Rup. [Applause.]

He is a man of very few words, and he will just about show you how few.

Rupert Wimmer. Ladies, I stood before you five years ago, and it's taken me this long to think about what I was going to say this morning. Kit has got the right wording. She said I forgot. No, really, I am humble. Some people have said that same thing about me. When could a Wimmer ever be humble but I am humble, and I thank you one and all for affording me to become Betty's husband. Thank you one and all. [Applause.]

Commander Wilton. Rup, will you please come back here. We will let Betty sit down for a minute.

You know, for a number of years it was always a tradition that we presented the incoming commander's hubby with a few things he might need, and we felt this was a great tradition. So, Ray is going to come up here, and we have a few things we would like to present you because we want you to know that we care for you and we want you to be well taken care of. Ray.

These first ones are the simple ones, you know, that he can just help Betty a little bit with.

Ray Wilton. Rupert, this is called a feather duster. You use this about every six weeks.

Commander Wilton. Ray told him it was a feather duster and you use it about every six weeks.

Ray Wilton. Rupert, this is most handy, the most handy tool that you will ever hold. As a personal present I brought you a little something I found very useful last year.

Commander Wilton. I will read it since you can't always hear it. This is from Ray to Rup and Betty, turn your head. This is a gift certificate. It's good for one year and they do deliver to Madam Mocell Feefee's massage parlor and John Smith, alias Rup Wimmer.

Now, you've all heard my little one here, and I don't want to take anything from the newly elected officers, but I'm going to introduce my girls and then they can take the little one out, if they would like to. Margo, would you please just stand so they can see. You don't need to talk this year. We want Betty to have the spotlight. Susan and our little granddaughter, Margel, who is a member of this auxiliary and will be a life member when it is time for her to be.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Loneita, would you please come forward.

Loneita Shoemaker. The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary is still a growing organization. Its goals, however, will remain the same and with your help 1985-86 will be a good year. I welcome the opportunities to serve as the national senior vice commander and I wholeheartedly accept that responsibility and the hard work with the position that it comes.

At this time I would like to recognize the 20th District, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas who have supported me through the years, and I appreciate you very much. Would you please stand. [Applause.]

It is now my pleasure to present a very dear person. He is an adopted son of mine. He means very much to me and to many people in Arkansas. It is my pleasure to present to you David Jeeter from Little Rock. David.

David Jeeter. Yesterday there was a gentleman who was having a lot of trouble and some pains and some problems and he said, you know, my wife is here and I just hope I'm able to make it through this convention because it's real important to her. And I said something I thought that was real nice of him, but I didn't know what I would do without my wife and he said, without my wife I would be dead. The DAV is an organization. We would be dead if it wasn't for you women. I think you have made an excellent choice in your candidates here, and I appreciate all of your hard work. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Katherine, would you and your family please come forward.

Katherine Pearson. Thank you. Ladies, I want to thank you so very much. I deem it a very special honor and a very special privilege to have been selected as your national first junior vice commander. And I would like to emphasize at this time the remark that Betty made.

The challenge that the men have given us in reaching a double standard in our membership. Men have a million and all Betty is asking for is to double our membership now, but it will be a start and I hope that we can even do more than that, Betty, for you because our membership is so important, and I just think that when you reach out and touch a new member and if each one of you that are here today will bring us a new member, we will have that start on doubling our membership.

At this time I'm very proud to present to you the person who has made me eligible for this Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, my husband, Lyle.

Lyle Pearson. Thank you.

Ladies of the auxiliary, I want to thank you for elevating my wife to the position of the first national junior vice commander of this great ladies auxiliary. I have no qualms in guaranteeing and promising you that she will serve faithfully, conscientiously, ably and well, and again I can tell you that she has the full support of her family, that includes myself and our seven children. And I have two of the children here to back me up, my son Lyle, Jr. and my daughter, Ann. [Applause.]

The other kids don't think we need it while Lyle, Jr. is a lieutenant in the state prison for us and he will enforce the rules and regulations on the family.

Again, I thank you so very, very much and we appreciate the great honor that you have bestowed upon Katherine. Thank you again. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton**. Rose Schilpp.

Rose Schilpp. Again, I thank you all for this honor. It means so much. It's really hard to put it into words, but I feel like as though I never meet a stranger through out organizations. We're all members for the same purpose. Let's rededicate ourselves to the purpose of our organization; and as you know, an organization that fails to plan, plans to fail. So let's get everything working and start off to a great year, and I feel like in a country such as we are and the love for god and country and the love for one another, we can overcome anything. So let's all get started and have a tremendous year and thank you again for this privilege to serve. [Applause.]

I must introduce my husband, Jim. I think we have three Jims this year. They can't be too bad. If it wasn't for him I would not be standing before you. I am very proud of him. He has been a very dedicated member for many years.

Jim Schilpp. Well, back to the kitchen. Rup, he got the duster. I got the mop and the broom two years ago.

Though I am proud of my wife and also I will be behind the DAV and the DAVA. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Shelia, would you and your family like to come forward.

Shelia Allred. I want to thank you all. I want to thank you, the membership, for allowing me to serve as your national third junior vice commander. Along with national third junior vice commander goes the duty of the national Americanism chairman, and I want you to know I am proud to be an American. Are you? [Applause.]

Let's hear it. Yea. Okay. We feel it. We know it so let's show it.

Next year we're going to make the whole nation know that we are all proud to be Americans. Another thing that we know and we feel and we're going to show is I feel like we're headed for next year positively a fantastic year in our organization.

I would like for the girls from North Carolina—at this time like to take a moment to thank them and ask them if they would please stand. I would like to recognize them, the girls from North Carolina. [Applause.]

I would also like the girls from the national 5th District to please stand. They have given me a lot of support. And I want to say to Florida, Florida you may be leaving our district but you will never leave our hearts.

At this time I want to present to you the love of my life and the man in my life, my husband, Jim Allred. [Applause.]

Jim Allred. Thank you. No one said it any better than Gomer Pyle. Thank yee, thank yee, thank yee. [Applause.]

But I would like to thank each and everyone of you ladies for what you've done here today.

Shelia is my love and I do cherish her and support her and endorse her in anything that she does, and it has really been a challenge with this organization and I thoroughly enjoyed it and I thoroughly enjoyed each and everyone of you. And I hope just the love that I have shared with Shelia the last 19 years will continue for 19 more years with all of you lovely ladies. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Wilton.** Claudia, I guess Claudia will be our baby because I think she's younger than Myrtice.

Claudia Roy. Thank you for the honor that you have bestowed upon me this morning, electing me your national fourth junior vice commander. Thank you for the great gift that you just gave me. I'm so proud.

I promise to you today to give you the best I can physically, mentally and emotionally. As the new kid on the block, that's what I'm being called, I have to try harder because I'm going to have a lot of ladies watching me. I look forward to serving with the national family and getting to know everyone of them and everyone of you a little bit better.

I would like to thank my very dearest friend, Beverly Cleveland. She gave my nominating speech. I love her. And all of the ladies in District No. 1, I would like to recognize all of you, my dear, dear friends. Would you all stand up. [Applause.]

Thank you. They said Jim must be a good name. It sure is because I have a Jim too. He's the reason that I belong to this great organization and because I love it so and I love him. My husband, Jim Roy.

JIM ROY. Well, we've been hearing all morning how much all of the husbands love their wives and how much we're going to support them. The same goes for me. My wife has my love and support and as anyone in District No. 1 knows, I support the organization and the auxiliary and I will continue to do that until the end of my life. If it wasn't for the DAV we wouldn't need the auxiliary, but we do need you girls, so keep up the good work. You have great leadership and I know you are going to go miles and miles above everything else. Thank you again. [Applause.]

Commander **WILTON**. Well, I guess we will let the judge and John come up here now, if you will, please.

Oh, Myrtice. Oh, Myrtice, please come forward. How could I forget that lady.

MYRTICE VINSON. I would like to say thank you to each of you for electing me as your national chaplain for 1985–86. I do pledge my very best. I hope that by the end of this year, this next year, you will be as proud of me as I am of you.

My husband, Cleo, is not with me this week here at the convention but I do have some very special people. First, I would like to ask the members of my unit, Raymond Williams No. 50, to please stand. [Applause.]

All of the members from the Department of Georgia stand. [Applause.]

And now all of the members of the national 5th District. [Applause.]

I saved the best for the last because standing behind me is a very, very special person. She is my sister. For the past seven years she had been my mother and my very best friend. My sister, Olivia Hopkins.

OLIVIA HOPKINS. I would just like to say thank you all for electing Myrtice as chaplain. I'm sure she will do you a good job because she really loves this DAVA. [Applause.]

Commander **WILTON**. Lucille and John.

LUCILLE MCCARTHY. I don't know if you just heard that uh-huh for the 19th year.

First, I would like to thank everyone for electing me national judge advocate again to serve another year. This will be my 19th year, but I couldn't do it without the support of my family and, of course, of the area where I live. Having lived in Florida for this last 16 years, I feel that they have been very supportive during my efforts, and I would like at this time for the department of Florida, all of the ladies here, please stand. [Applause.]

The others who will no longer be in our district—as you know, Florida is now 7th district and District No. 9, which is now composed of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, I thank you all and I would also like to have you stand now, please. [Applause.]

You know, the very petite, I guess is the way you would describe her, lady who was just elected as the NEC from the 7th District has been my page this year and that is Christine Johnson and Christine, where are you, but I would like to thank you for serving. This is the second year that she has served and I appreciate her very much.

But next I would like to tell you the very special person in my life and has been, let's see, for 43 years of—I'm getting old, but he will tell you it's been a good 43 years and that's my husband, John. John. [Applause.]

JOHN MCCARTHY. Unaccustomed, as I am, I do appreciate being here again. I Wish all of you the very best, may you have a good trip home. I am a little bit at a loss this time because I usually have two girls at this affair. This year I'm sorry to say I've only got one. But the next gentleman that you will meet is a friend of ours almost as long as we've been married but anyhow, good luck, Jack, Kit and all of you. [Applause.]

LUCILLE MCCARTHY. Just one last thing. My 19 years or 18 years that I've served as judge advocate would not have been as pleasant and as special as they have been if it wouldn't be for my very best friend, Kit Seal Feighner.

It's so difficult to add Feighner but at least I know how to spell it because Jack has been known to us as long as we have known Kit, and I will tell you the highlight of my year this past year has been that I was able to say that I saw happily married—I was the matron of honor. This was the third marriage that I had served as matron of honor. The other two have failed but this one I know will be a success. The third time is a charm, so, Kit, I would like to say to you, you are a very special person. You will always remain a special person in my life. You are more than what a sister would be. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **WILTON.** You know, when we went into one of the meetings this fall, Kit said to me, oh, Jack—I guess it wasn't in the fall. It had to be after Christmas, didn't it? But anyway, she said to me, oh, Jack is so disappointed that he can't take you out for dinner, Sally, and I don't know why she didn't take the other women and let Jack take me out. I would have loved it. Well, Kit is a true friend and I truly love her. She has made it very easy for me. Kit, I love you and have been so pleased to serve with you.

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Thank you. [Applause.] Thank you, Sally.

First of all, I would like to say to National Commander Betty Wimmer, thank you for my appointment as national adjutant and the honor to serve you for this year. Oh, yes, when the nominating committee yesterday notified me and had me in there, I was really nominated for commander. I was and I appointed Lucille as my adjutant.

Needless to say, with the officers that have been elected today and with all of the members out there, we are going to have a banner year this year and before I ask Jack to say something, I would like to present two of the girls that are here with me today because without their help and the other three girls that are at home in the office, none of us would be able to do our job at headquarters. Judy and Pat, would you please come stand up. [Applause.]

Judy was the first person I hired in 1965, so that tells you how long she's been around. Also I would like to say I am a member in Ohio. If Ohio would please stand up. I'm a life member in Maryland but to me every district in the country has always supported me and without the help from all of the units, we wouldn't be able to do the things we do.

Now, about my husband. You know, all of these men have been telling how great they are, but I want to tell you about the great husband I have and how proud I am. You know, we've only been married, it's not quite seven months, the end of this week, and do you know that in seven months we now have eight children and 13 grandchildren.

As Lucille had said, we've all been friends for over 38 years and needless to say, I'm very proud today to introduce you to my husband, Jack Feighner.

JACK FEIGHNER. In 31 years of working for the Disabled American Veterans and eight years of retirement, I've made a great many speeches. None as happy as the one I'm making right now. I'm very pleased to be known as the husband of Kit Seal Feighner and much as you all love her, I love her so much more. Thank you. [Applause.]

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. And as Lucille said, we've been a team for so many years and we will continue that way. Thank you. [Applause.]

PAULINE WRIGHT. Commander Sally, Pauline Wright, Past National Commander. We would like to have the honor of having you come down and join us to a few moments, and would you bring the judge with you.

Commander **WILTON.** Yes, ma'am, but may I take one moment. This is Betty's year to shine, and I want her to have a wonderful year and I know she will have, but I must recognize and thank my family who, oh, Lordy, I'm not Chad, I'm not going back to cooking. I don't cook but I'm good at other things and my husband says that's okay.

But they have given me wonderful support, my page, Louise Ellis. This lady is a truly dedicated, extremely dedicated DAVA person. [Applause.]

Unit 1, Phoenix. This is my special unit. District 18 and California, you are 16, you have been with me every year except this year and I thank you so very much. I love you all. Thank you. [Applause.]

BETTY WIMMER. Pauline, can we just—our girls have forgotten something. I am up at the podium already but the girls want to introduce their districts and I would like to just ask you if I might, Sally. Sally Roslanski, I neglected again this year. I don't take you for granted but Sally is my personal page, and she's been in my corner every bit of the way and I want you to know that this is Sally. You've seen her all week but here she is. [Applause.]

SALLY ROSLANSKI. Thank you, Betty, and I would like to present you with this little envelope from all of the PDCs in Wisconsin. We wanted to be the first ones to congratulate you.

BETTY WIMMER. Thank you, Sally. [Applause.]

LONEITA SHOEMAKER. Ladies, I would like to introduce to you my page, Deborah Doyle. She is a junior member from Arkansas. [Applause.]

KATHERINE PEARSON. I'm very proud to present to you two pages from Minnesota. My personal page, Sharon Kreamer, and Shirley Larson. And I would also like to add that I am very proud of my 14th District, and will they stand. Come on, girls. [Applause.]

ROSE SCHILPP. I would like to introduce my personal page, Eleanor Bales, from Independence, Missouri. And I'm sorry, girls, I did it again this year, but I would like to for my district to stand up. They might not let me come home. Would you please stand. I appreciate all of your support. Many of the 15th district. Thank you. [Applause.]

SHELIA ALLRED. And I would like to introduce my page to you. Linda is my page and a long time friend and a member of my Unit 27. Linda Bartlett.

PAULINE WRIGHT. Sally, yesterday you were the queen of the Mardi Gras at the forget-me-not luncheon. You have been the queen of the Disabled American Veterans for one year, but now you are going to have to relinquish that title, and we are very happy on behalf of the past national commanders, I'm happy to welcome you into our group. [Applause.]

Commander **WILTON.** Pauline, I am extremely pleased to relinquish the title. I've loved it but I thank you all. And thank you, I'm very honored to join you. Thank you. [Applause.]

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. While Sally is coming up, we're going to dismiss the husbands momentarily. We'll see you all at six o'clock after NEC meeting.

CLAUDIA ROY. Sally, I am very happy to relinquish my title as the baby of the group. You can have it.

Commander **WILTON.** We are coming to the close of our convention and we have a few announcements and then we'll have the retirement of our national colors, and I have to recognize these gentleman who have been so patient. They were ready at 10:00 this morning, and I know that some of them had to leave but I want them to know that I am truly proud of them and I do thank them.

Kit. Oh, Kit is visiting. Are you ready for your announcements?

KIT SEAL FEIGHNER. Yeah, sure. I don't even know if this lady is here any more, but we had Pinky Oats from Unit 1 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is she here? Oh, she had a birthday.

And there is one history book wasn't picked up. It's New Mexico No. 10. Would someone from New Mexico please take this book.

The National executive committee meeting, this is the new national officers and NECs, will be at two o'clock today in the St. Charles Room which is just around the corner here on the third floor. So that's going to be very soon. It won't be a long meeting but we do need the national executive committee to be in that meeting this afternoon.

Commander Wilton. At this time we will have the retirement of the national colors.

Nelda Wilson. Madam Commander, Nelda Wilson, past national commander. May I ask if anyone has seen a camera belonging to Elva Johnson, who has been called home on an emergency. She left the camera down here in the middle section.

Commander Wilton. If you do find that camera, will you please either give it to someone up here or take it into the office.

And we also have a cat cap, a cap from Los Angeles 15. Okay, Jack. Thank you.

[Retirement of the colors.]

Commander Wilton. This is the Department of Arizona honor guard. We do thank you. Pease give them a good hand. I truly appreciate it. [Applause.]

And they have been waiting since 9:30 this morning. I would like to express—you may be seated.

I would like to express our thanks to our pianist. Rose Mary Dye. God bless Rose Mary.

Myrtice, would you please give the closing prayer. Our national chaplain for this past year had to leave.

Myrtice Vinson. Gracious father, as we come to the close of this convention, we pray that thy blessings would be with each of us from this point forward. We thank you for all of thy blessings during this convention. We thank thee for the newly elected officers and each member of this organization. We ask that thou would guide us and protect us and keep us ever in thy care. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

[Audience responded Amen.]

[Whereupon the Convention adjourned at 1:30 p.m.]

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